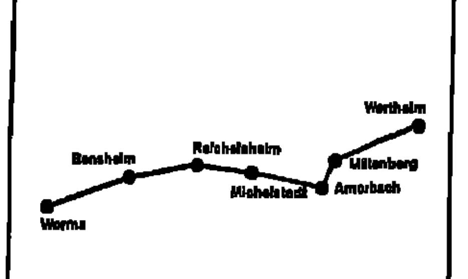
Routes to tour in Germany



The Nibelungen Route



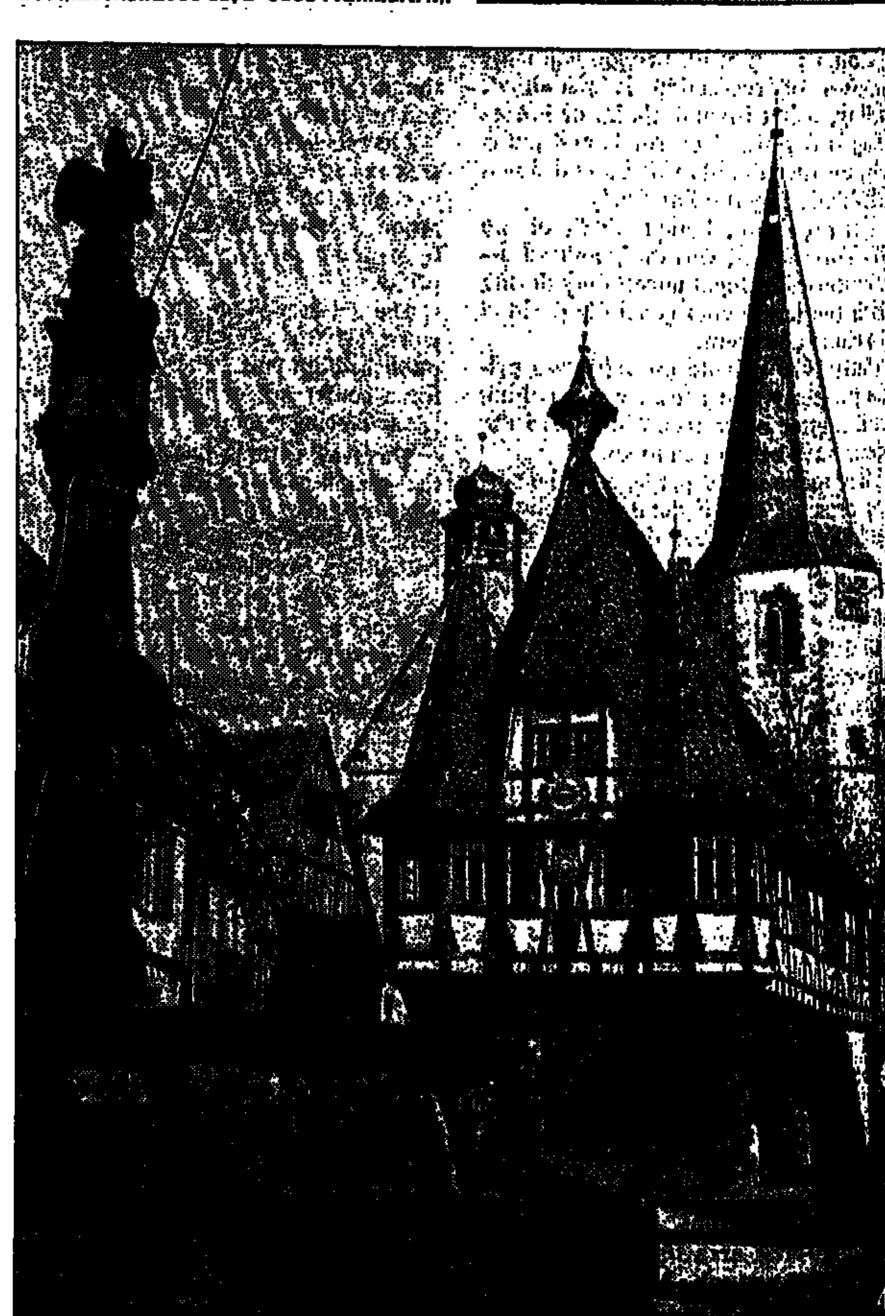
German roads will get you there – to the Odenwald woods, for instance, where events in the Nibelungen saga, the mediaeval German heroic epic, are said to have taken place. Sagas may have little basis in reality, but these woods about 30 miles south of Frankfurt could well have witnessed gaiety and tragedy in days gone by. In Worms, on the left bank of the Rhine, people lived 5,000 years ago. From the 5th century AD the kings of Burgundy held court there, going hunting in the Odenwald.

With a little imagination you can feel yourself taken back into the past and its tales and exploits. Drive from Wertheim on the Main via Miltenberg and Amorbach to Michelstadt, with its 15th century half-timbered *Rathaus*. Cross the Rhine after Bensheim and take a look at the 11th to 12th century Romanesque basilica in Worms.

Visit Germany and let the Nibelungen Route be your guide.

1 The Hagen Monument in Worms
2 Miltenberg
3 Odenwald
4 Michelstadt
5 Wertheim







The German Tribune

Hamburg, 9 May 1982
Twenty-first Year - No. 1035 - By air

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EEC backs Britain on Falklands

The Common Market countries acted with unaccustomed speed in backing Britain in the Falklands crisis. It was a far cry from the tedious and protracted way in which the EEC usually reach decisions.

The Ten agreed to economic sanctions against Argentina even though in previous political crises most European Community countries, Britain included, have felt sanctions to be ineffective.

They did so despite a number of them facing serious disadvantages if there were to be a long-term upset in trade ties with Argentina.

But EEC backing for Britain was not unqualified. Measures were aimed at convincing Argentina it must abandon a fait accompli brought about by force of arms and try again to arrive at a negotiated settlement.

It was assumed that Britain too was mainly interested in arriving at a negotiated settlement and it remained to be seen whether solidarity with Britain would continue unchallenged if Whitehall felt obliged to send in the naval task force rather than just use it to get Argentina to negotiate.



Even so, EEC sanctions were imposed immediately, showing that the Common Market felt it was mainly up to Argentina to sue for terms. Britain could feel the Ten had its interests in mind.

European Community considerations undoubtedly played a large part in deciding member-countries to back Britain, where public opinion still takes a dim view of the Common Market.

Many people in Britain are not really in favour of close political ties with the Continent. Others doubt whether EEC membership does Britain any economic good.

The Labour Party is committed to a bid to take Britain out of the Common Market if it wins the next general election.

The Conservatives are adroitly using this opposition to call on the Community to change the rules that are felt to be the reason why Britain is not being given a fair deal in the EEC.

Thus the Conservatives relativise their commitment to Europe by presenting opponents of British membership with the argument that Britain is not getting a fair deal.

Given this problematic nature of relations between Britain and the other members of the EEC, the others could have seriously jeopardised the Common Market's future development.

Will the backing Britain has been given by the Ten on the Falklands now prompt the British government and public opinion to take a less jaundiced view of the Common Market?

British criticism of the EEC is levelled mainly and with some justification at the Common Agricultural Policy.

It is a policy of inordinately high farm price guarantees and over-generous subsidies resulting in surplus output and stockpiling or exports that need to be subsidised yet again from Community funds.

Whitehall's second objection is to Britain's high net contribution to EEC funds, from which Britain gets so little back in Common Market allocations that the British taxpayer ranks alongside his German counterpart as the major net financier of the EEC.

Since the New Year Britain has linked the two issues and made its approval of farm price increases subject to satisfactory arrangements on British EEC budget contributions.

According to Whitehall's latest estimates Britain's net surplus of contributions over benefits is not as high as had been feared, incidentally.

One can but hope Britain will abandon this linkage, which would pave the

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

The German Tribune Magazine is included with this issue.



Portuguese Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemao arriving at Frankfurt airport, where he is seen shaking hands with the helicopter pilot who flew him on to Bonn for talks with West German leaders. (Photo: dpa)

Portugal puts on pressure

For centuries Portugal's overriding foreign policy aim has been not to be dependent on its larger and more powerful neighbour, Spain.

Spanish integration in Nato, which will soon be completed, and accession to the EEC, an incomparably tougher task, affect fundamental national interests of the ten million Portuguese.

Lisbon feels it has been upstaged by Madrid, so it has launched a diplomatic offensive of which Portuguese Premier Francisco Pinto Balsemao's visit to Bonn formed part.

Its aim was to foster greater understanding among Portugal's allies for the pressing regional problems it faces in south-west Europe.

Portuguese President Ramalho Eanes has said in Brussels that Portugal would not be placing difficulties in the way of Spanish integration in the Atlantic alliance.

But Lisbon would be making use of its veto if fundamental Portuguese interests were jeopardised. It objects, for instance, to plans to establish a Spanish supreme command over the Iberian peninsula and surrounding waters in the event of a crisis.

If Portugal is to play an appropriate naval role in the Atlantic it realises, as a traditional seafaring nation, that it will need to modernise its aging navy.

Bonn should realise that it is not just a matter of financial support for the construction of three frigates but of the self-esteem of a country that has opted for European integration and aims to fulfill its Nato obligations.

Common Market membership is Portugal's other problem. Senhor Pinto Balsemao is keen to prevent Lisbon's membership bid from being shelved if difficulties over Madrid's application persist.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 May 1982)

Hungarian leader in Bonn

Hungarian leader Janos Kadar's visit to Bonn, modestly billed a working visit, called to mind the 1956 Budapest uprising in which he was seen in the West as a mere agent of Soviet imperialism.

Time has helped us to review this error of judgment and Hungary has become well-known for ploughing a furrow of its own in the East Bloc.

Mr Khrushchev referred scornfully to what he termed Hungarian goulash communism, but it has since gained express approval in the Soviet Union.

With the passage of time there have been much more serious departures from the straight and narrow path of Marxist-Leninist virtue in the East Bloc, even if they may not have been marked by bloodshed.

The bankruptcy of the Polish Communist Party forced the Soviet Union to state its case on the correct course for communism to take in the East Bloc.

It was inevitably noted that Hungary had been spared the problems of strict communist economic controls by restoring to the private sector supplies of some consumer goods.

Taken precisely, the Hungarians have reverted to the methods of the class enemy. But they are practically the only East Bloc country able to meet domestic needs adequately and even to compete with the West in world markets.

But ideological purity must not be applied too closely as a yardstick.

So it was bound to be even more interesting for Bonn to welcome Mr Kadar as the first Party leader from Eastern Europe to Bonn since martial law had been imposed in Poland.

Disregarding the development of trade between Bonn and Budapest, German officials were keen to learn how the Hungarian leader viewed events in Poland and the prospects of keeping developments there peaceful and quiet.

Mr Kadar has succeeded in pursuing successful economic policies and thereby ensuring for his country a certain leeway and degree of East-West influence.

His example could suggest a solution for Poland, always providing the Polish armed forces do not use force to enable their country's failed Stalinists to make another attempt.

But Hungary's political interests extend well beyond Polish issues to aspects of a peaceful settlement of East-West conflicts.

In Europe this peaceful settlement is heralded by the plans for a summit meeting between Presidents Brezhnev and Reagan.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 28 April 1982)

WORLD AFFAIRS

Bonn, Brazil, Argentina and atomic energy

Brazil and Argentina have been suspected for over a decade of trying to gain access to nuclear know-how that would enable them to build atomic bombs of their own.

Since 1968, when Siemens were awarded the contract to build Argentina's Atucha I nuclear power station on the Rio Paraná, Bonn has been accused of selling sensitive nuclear technology to countries that refuse to permit international control of their nuclear fuel cycles.

Criticism was even more trenchant when, in 1975, Germany clinched a nuclear deal with Brazil too. But the three-cornered relationship between Bonn, Brasilia and Buenos Aires is more complicated.

Argentina and Brazil have not signed the 1970 nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Both countries, under democratic and military governments alike, see the treaty as discriminating against pre-1970 nuclear have-nots in both the military and the non-military senses of the term

They thus refuse to permit *de jure* inspection of their nuclear installations by international agencies but allow inspection *de facto* on two conditions.

First, inspection arrangements must be negotiated individually for each reactor and be limited to it. Second, inspection procedures must not be stricter than for treaty signatories.

This is a point on which Argentina and Brazil insist in order to ensure that there is not even the appearance of them being given second-rate treatment.

A more unsatisfactory point is that neither country has ratified the 1967 Tlatelolco treaty, which was drawn up to establish a nuclear-free zone in South America.

They base their refusal to do so on *two more or less identical arguments that cannot be denied a certain logic, although to European ears they sound inordinately nationalistic.*

First, the treaty would be a unilateral act of self-restraint by the South American countries unless it were signed by all the nuclear powers too.

France, for instance, would in theory retain the right to stockpile nuclear weapons in Guadeloupe and Guiana.

Besides, the 1962 Cuba crisis has not been forgotten. It was triggered by the shipment of Soviet missiles to Latin America, and Cuba has not ratified the agreement either.

Yet it would be wrong to infer that Brasilia and Buenos Aires are determined to develop the Bomb, although there undeniably are brasshats and politicians in both countries who would like to do so.

But they are in a minority and have never decided government policy, which is not to say that their demands and hints have not sounded increasingly ominous as Argentina and Brazil have neared the nuclear threshold.

The temptation to cross it naturally increases accordingly, but it is still true to say that the desire to establish domestic access to the entire nuclear fuel cycle is based on the striving for economic independence, not on military considerations.

The contracts between Bonn, Siemens and Buenos Aires and Bonn, Kraftwerk-Union and Brasilia thus each contain two packages: the supply of turnkey equipment and the transfer of know-how intended to enable the two countries to build nuclear power stations of their own in the 90s.

The result has been greater rivalry between Buenos Aires and Brasilia, especially as both have long vied with each other for predominance in South America.

In 1980 the two heads of state visited each other, inaigurating a phase of detente, but economic rivalry remains. Which of the two will supply South American markets?

There can be no doubt that Argentina *has a head's start. With the aid of German and Italian scientists it embarked on nuclear research in 1945* and has laid a fairly comprehensive groundwork of manpower and know-how.

Admiral Carlos Madero, head of the Argentinian atomic energy authority since 1976, is a physics graduate.

Six experimental reactors and two research centres have ensured for Argentinian scientists a thorough training and grounding in technical and physics know-how up to and including the handling of hot cells such as are needed for recycling nuclear fuel.

In 1968 Buenos Aires decided to concentrate on natural uranium and heavy water reactors of a kind that flopped in Europe and the United States but were kept up by Canada.

This decision was reached less on the advice of German pioneers than with a view to managing without uranium that would have to be enriched abroad.

Since the 60s Argentina has also emerged as a kind of Latin American nuclear Mecca. Cooperation and advisory agreements have been signed with Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and Peru.

In 1977/78 Argentina even supplied Peru with an experimental nuclear reactor. In comparison with Argentina's slow but steady nuclear development, based on its own resources, Brazil took a headlong plunge into atomic energy.

The military regime that has held power in Brazil since 1976 has sought to make good at breakneck speed the ground it had allowed Argentina to gain between 1945 and 1970.

It aimed at buying in Bonn and developing in a decade what neighbouring Argentina had gradually evolved: uranium enrichment facilities, light water reactors using enriched uranium (now the standard international technique) and fuel recycling installations.

These different paths are reflected, incidentally, in public opinion. In Argentina atomic energy is accepted, while in Brazil it is highly controversial.

Brasilia and Buenos Aires have always emphasised that they have no military ambitions in developing and buying nuclear know-how.

They claim to be motivated solely by two non-military aims: ensuring that domestic power demand (somewhat overestimated) can be *met* and setting up a domestic nuclear industry.

US objections to both treaties have done Bonn no harm at all in Latin America, and Germany stands to gain either way: from Argentinian heavy water or Brazilian light water reactors.

No mention is made of the Bomb. Both governments enjoy greater political influence by being in a position to manufacture it if the need arises than by actually possessing it.

If either were known for sure to possess a military nuclear capacity the trend would jeopardise the stability of all in a continent with any number of unresolved border conflicts.

Horst Bieber

(Die Zeit, 30 April 1982)

Relief over Sinai withdrawal

Bonn was relieved the Israelis had evacuated the remainder of the Sinai peninsula according to schedule and kept to their deadline in accordance with the terms of the Camp David agreement.

The return of the Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty was, Bonn felt, a moral boost for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who was backed to the hilt by Chancellor Schmidt when he last visited Bonn.

But German officials harbour no illusions of a prompt settlement on the second major part of the Camp David process, autonomy for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Bonn here feels that self-government must eventually lead to self-determination, which seems sure to present problems.

Middle East experts agree that the United States as third party to Camp David alongside Egypt and Israel must counteract any hardening of viewpoints, with the risk of fresh and dangerous escalation.

Now Egypt has regained the Sinai by peaceful means it stands a better chance of coming to terms with other Arab countries, at least the moderates, or so Bonn experts feel.

The long-term prospects of the Camp David process being extended to include Jordan and Saudi Arabia in particular could also improve.

A touchstone of these prospects will, Bonn feels, be the Arab viewpoint on the eight-point Saudi Arabian plan for peace in the Middle East, which in a number of major respects tallies with the 1980 Venice declaration by the EEC.

This being so, Bonn has been most reticent about the latest calll by Chedli Klibi, general secretary of the Arab League, for a fresh Middle East move by the European Community.

The German government expects to learn more when Foreign Minister Genscher visits Israel, which he is planning to do next month.

Klaus Bering/dpa

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 27 April 1982)

EEC backs Britain

Continued from page 1

way to quieter negotiations less redolent of Common Market crisis.

An even more important point is whether there will be any overall change in the attitude of British opinion toward the Continent.

The defence debate in the Commons will provide an important pointer to progress.

There are sure to be those who accuse British defence planners of stripping the country of all means of forestalling a clash such as the Falklands conflict.

British defence policy has indeed been aimed at phasing out a global role for the armed forces, which were mainly geared for operations in Europe.

In cooperation with its Nato allies *the Royal Navy was* also in future to operate only in European waters and in the North Atlantic.

So British defence policy, without going into detail, has by and large been European, and rightly so. It was certainly a clear indication that Britain had made the change to changing circumstances even though it might retain misgivings and dislikes.

The mistake Britain made was less one of depriving the armed forces of the means of carrying out a global role that would in any case have gone beyond its means nowadays.

Where Britain went wrong was in neglecting to give the Falklands problem sufficient political attention now the islands lacked military cover.

It would be little short of paradoxical if domestic criticism of British defence policy in the wake of the Falklands crisis were to lead to its European orientation being scaled down.

Europe's show of solidarity with Britain was intended to have exactly the opposite effect.

Members of the European Community took the right decision in deciding to back Britain, especially as they underscored the principle that international disputes ought not to be settled by force.

They deliberately adopted an outlook different from the United States, which began by taking a neutral stance and offering to mediate.

The Argentine junta failed to make use of this offer, and once the final US peace plan had been turned down in Buenos Aires Washington abandoned its neutral position.

Politically, it too backed Britain, proposing to impose economic sanctions on Argentina along European lines and undertaking to meet British military supply requirements.

This marked the end of support for Britain as a special European case. Britain now again stood side by side with the United States.

In view of the lack of understanding shown by the Argentine junta Washington felt obliged to revise US policy and make it clear that ties with Europe in general and Britain in particular were more important than consideration for Latin America sensitivities.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 May 1982)

The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

New-look Cabinet but the problems are the same

In Cabinet reshuffles incoming Ministers, feeling they have been given the right post, are invariably full of satisfaction while their outgoing colleagues are disappointed and disgruntled.

By permitting weeks of public discussion and speculation on who was involved and by his unaccustomed delay in informing them Chancellor Schmidt made for more disenchantment than was necessary.

This has greatly weakened the impression of a fresh start and could well make it more difficult for the new people to get off to a good one.

To make matters worse, it is apparent that the SPD as a party and the SPD in the Bundestag have not exactly been left in a new beginning mood after their Munich congress.

A member of the government said a couple of days ago that the mood in the SPD parliamentary group was bleak but that it would naturally back the government's decision on the reshuffle.

Like the party as a whole, the SPD parliamentary group sees itself caught in a cleft stick. One the one hand Munich has aroused expectations, especially on economic and employment policy; on the other the MPs know that the prospects of making the coalition partner go along are very slim.

The situation is furher exacerbated by differences within the SPD parliamentary group not having been eliminated by the Munich congress.

Briefly, some give priority to a further consolidation of the budget and others press for a bolder course (even at the expense of deficit spending).

Departing Labour Minister Herbert Ehrenberg is bound to join the second group.

Seen in this light, attention will primarily be riveted on the reshuffle in the Finance and Labour Ministries with Manfred Lahnstein and Heinz Westphal as the new portfolio-holders.

They will have to weather not only the Munich shockwaves but also the dialogue with the coalition partner.

It is mainly budgetary and social affairs policy that will decide what can and what cannot be done within the coalition.

Lahnstein, a man of great efficiency and capacity for work, will be the first to enter the arena.

He will now have to ponder ways and means of financing the common initiative for full employment — if necessary without rising VAT.

In addition, he will have to present a supplementary budget of about DM4bn and try to find the money.

In drafting the budget for fiscal 1983 (the draft should be essentially completed before the summer recess) Lahnstein will be faced with the difficult task of warding off demands for about DM10bn more from various government departments.

Finally, he will have to pave the way for tax relief in 1984 which has been conceived as a sort of follow-up measure for the employment programme known for short as the "common initiative".

The new Finance Minister could well find it easier to arrive at an arrangement with the FDP than with parts of the SPD parliamentary group.

Lahnstein is certainly not thrift-obsessed and he will make a point of doing nothing that could weaken the ailing economy still further.

Yet he will try to reduce new borrowing and channel spending towards investment. He will also try to promote private investment.

Where major public sector programmes are concerned, Matthöfer's successor is likely to be sceptical; and he will do his best to honour the coalition agreement on reducing the tax burden in 1984.

While all this coincides with government policy, it does not necessarily coincide with the resolutions at Munich.

The SPD parliamentary party might still have permitted Matthöfer to ignore the Munich resolutions; but it is unlikely to do so with Lahnstein whom *it does* not consider one of its own.

This in turn will force the Chancellor to close ranks with his Finance Minister (who is not an MP).

The job of the new Labour Minister will be every bit as arduous — both so far as the work load and the potential conflicts are concerned.

After years of work, the bill on the reform of pensions for widows and widowers is now ready to be tabled.

Negotiations on earlier retirement have progressed pretty far though they have not yet been completed.

The Ministry's concept on job protection is also ready for presentation.

Each of these bills could be a possible source of conflict between the coalition partners and within the SPD.

The questions here are: What can be financed and what burdens can be imposed on the business community, the social security fund and the taxpayer?

The SPD's image-building drive in *Munich has heightened expectations in this sector* as well.

The bill on the reform of pensions contains as one of its essential features

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President Carstens (centre) in Bonn congratulates Chancellor Schmidt's new Cabinet Ministers. From the left: Hans Matthöfer, Posts and Telecommunications; Anke Fuchs, Family, Youth Affairs and Health; Manfred Lahnstein, Finance; and Heinz Westphal, Labour. (Photo: Poly-Press)

Medium-range missiles could knock out Bonn coalition

First the 1973/74 oil crisis shook the Western industrial nations; and when this turned into a protracted and and progressively worsening recession it swept most governments away.

Britain's Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan had to resign; America's Jimmy Carter was defeated in a landslide election, as was France's President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing whose nation wanted change, new people and new methods with which to master their economic woes.

The Italians simply like change as a way of life. Only the Bonn government, the coalition of SPD and FDP, has weathered the turbulences, which is a minor miracle.

The fact that it was re-elected in 1980 with a fairly impressive majority makes it an out-and-out exception in the West.

But it did not take long to forfeit this star position and the faith that was placed in it in the October 1980 election.

Whatever the SPD, the main victim in this enervating wasting process, does it will hardly be able to escape the destiny of the other governing parties of the West.

Even though the resolutions at the Munich congress have given the party a bit of a boost, realities willl soon prove an insurmountable obstacle.

Moreover, the SPD is headed for heavy weather on military and alliance policies and there is no way of taking evasive action — at least the way things stand today.

The last word on the deployment of US missiles in Europe and the implementation of the two-track Nato decision that has been the source of so much emotion will have to be spoken in 1983.

No tactics and no rules can change this once the time comes and a clear yes or no has to be said.

Any correct assessment of the *SPD* after its Munich party congress makes it obvious that there can be no viable majority in favour of Pershing and Cruise missiles.

Only a convincing Geneva deal on arms limitation could bolster the SPD as a governing party — provided it is still in government at the time. But there is little to indicate that it will be.

The Soviets keep accusing the Americans of negotiating only in order to provide themselves with an alibi. By the same token, Washington accuses Moscow of having no intention of scrapping its SS 20 missiles and subjecting itself to any kind of verification, which must of course be an *indispensable part of any* arms deal.

As a result, the Geneva negotiators are naturally finding the going tough. To make matters worse, there is yet another handicap: uncertainty about the future Soviet leadership.

Unless something decisive happens here by 1983 it would be most surprising if any kind of agreement could be reached in Geneva.

Since the Social Democrats would have to put their cards on the table should the Geneva conference fail, their ability to govern will be almost non-existent.

*Should the party decide on an obs*tructionist course for reasons of self-interest and in order to promote détente, a Nato crisis would be the inevitable consequence and would tear apart either the Bonn coalition or the Alliance.

No relief could come from the fact that the Free Democrats are also not exactly enthusiastic about the missile deployment and that it is therefore illusory to think that they would rally a majority for the Nato decision.

Not only the Americans but the European Nato partners as well would have no choice but to insist that the earlier deployment agreement be honoured. They would thus have to be unyielding *on the issue and put the alliance to* an acid test to which it is not equal.

Since the Chancellor gave his word on the issue and has fought for both parts of the two-track decision, giving priority to negotiations, he would find himself without a back door as an escape should the Geneva talks break down.

But should the American peace movement become the dominating force by 1983 and draw both American parties into its vortex, making it impossible for the Reagan administration to implement the Nato decision, a change could still occur.

Since the European peace movement could also become unbeatable opponents of their governments, the situation could change radically inasmuch as a Bonn refusal to go along with the Nato decision would then be considered justified.

There is also another thinkable (but unlikely) development that could come about. If, thanks to thorough preparation, the course of post-Brezhnev Soviet policy can be charted without protracted debilitating and paralysing power struggles in the Kremlin it is quite possible that the superpowers could reach an agreement in Geneva.

But it would be foolish to pin all hopes on this. As a result, there is every likelihood that Bonn will be forced to opt in favour of the deployment part of the two-track Nato decision — even if all other alternatives are taken into account.

It is unlikely that the SPD will be able to *rally a majority* for such a move. And even given the best will in the world on the part of the Social-Liberal partners and assuming they weather the budgetary tug-of-war and the state elections this year, the powder keg is bound to go off a year later.

Helmut Bauer

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 27 April 1982)

■ LAW & ORDER

Pro- and anti-Khomeini factions fight it out

Some 150 followers of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini from all over the Federal Republic of Germany have raided a student hostel in Mainz and beaten up anti-Khomeini Iranians.

Several police officers were injured. The mob was equipped with stilettos, knuckle dusters, chains and nail-spiked clubs.

Police said Ayatollah followers had noted the room numbers of their intended victims. They suspect the raid was ordered by the Iranian Embassy in Bonn.

This has been categorically denied by the Embassy. In a telegram to the news agency *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* it said this was a grave defamation of the diplomatic missions in Germany of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It also accused the police of sympathising with the followers of terrorist groups in Iran, meaning the Iranian opposition.

The Iranians who attacked the student hostel can look back on a long tradition. Back in the days of the Shah the Iranians used the Federal Republic of Germany as a battleground for their political disputes.

At that time, it was the "commandos" of Savak, the Shah's secret police, that used Germany to battle it out with their political opponents and shadowed Iranians living in this country.

A climax was reached during the Shah's 1967 state visit to Germany when a German student, Benno Ohnesorg, was shot dead in West Berlin by a police officer during an anti-Shah demonstration.

Before the incident, Iranian cheer leaders for the Shah had emotionalised the atmosphere.

It was customary in those days to fly in cheer leaders in great numbers whenever the Shah went on a state visit. The problem was that they not only cheered their monarch but also greatly provoked their anti-Shah fellow-countrymen.

After the Shah was toppled in 1979 and Ayatollah Khomeini came to power the tables on Iran's German battlefield were turned.

Afshah committees started terrorising students who opposed Khomeini or were suspected of having worked for Savak. There was a strong suspicion of close ties between Afshah and the Iranian Embassy in Bonn.

On numerous occasions the police were called in to assist people terrorised by the Khomeini followers. In Frankfurt, for instance, they had to storm a student hostel to liberate Afshah prisoners.

Lists of Khomeini opponents were compiled as early as 1979. As soon as Afshah found them they were subjected to severe torture in the course of interrogation and German public prosecutors charged Afshah thugs with assault and battery, extortion and similar offences.

So rampant was the fear of Afshah that a young Iranian student in Krefeld jumped off a balcony, breaking several vertebrae, when cornered by them.

Police investigations against Ayatollah followers are frequently extremely difficult, as borne out again by the Mainz incident.

Every one of the 86 people who were taken into customy gave false names and had to be identified by photographs and fingerprints.

In 1979 Hesse Prime Minister Holger Börner (SPD) suggested a solution to the problem, saying:

"We're not interested in a Persian revolution on German territory. Should they try, we'll make sure they get flight tickets home."

Martin S. Lambeck

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 26 April 1982)

Continued from page 3

not only the so-called "participants' pension" but also proposals for an increase of the minimum pension and the introduction of "baby and child rearing years".

There is no way of footing the bill for such reforms without imposing additional burdens on the insurance funds and the Federal budget.

Heinz Westphal should not content himself with rejecting economy proposals. He should not be afraid to put forward his own proposals on cutbacks in some sectors in order to protect the substance of our social security system.

The new Finance and Labour Ministers could contribute to putting the coalition back on its feet.

Even so, the pivotal points on which much will depend are not the new people but the old ones like Schmidt and Genscher. It is they who will determine whether the coalition gets its second wind.

The coalition as a whole must decide whether it is still willing and able to achieve something by 1984. The government reshuffle could demonstrate its intention to do so. *Heinz Murmann*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 April 1982)

Budget cuts hit border police

Referring to the 1981 report of the Federal Border Police (BGS), Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum stressed that the force had been able to answer all calls for assistance from the *Länder* while fulfilling regular duties.

But staff cuts for economy reasons, 352 in 1981 and 271 in 1982, were a source of considerable concern to the Ministry, he said.

Should further cutbacks become necessary, the work of the BGS would have to be reviewed and some duties or *whole units would have to be axed.*

The axe has already been decided for the Bad Schwalbach base, which is responsible for security at Frankfurt airport. The decision is to come into effect in 1984.

Another consequence of understaffing is that the BGS now has to draw on units from all over the country to perform major security tasks such as at demonstrations on the site of Brokdorf nuclear power station.

The Interior Ministry has also launched a drive to make Hesse and Lufthansa pay for the additional cost of security duties at Frankfurt airport.

The German national airline is also expected to pay for the extra cost of providing security for its agencies abroad.

There is, however, reason to believe that the payment request directed at the state of Hesse will be temporarily suspended so as not to upset the coalition.

But Lufthansa will in all likelihood have to foot all expenses over and above the salaries of the 140 officers assigned to it.

The BGS has a current strength of about 22,000. Its budget of about DM1bn has stagnated in the past few years. This has both caused problems in the personnel sector and led to cutbacks in equipment.

The report fails to mention these aspects. The Interior Ministry attributes complaints voiced in this connection among the men to the staff council elections rather than to budgetary problems.

As in previous years, the report devotes a great deal of space to conditions along the intra-German border.

The GDR has built additional fences and new patrol paths extending over more than 1,200 kilometres. Some 210 kilometres have mine belts and 420 kilometres are equipped with automatic guns.

Even so, 61 people succeeded in crossing the border to West Germany last year, 46 of them civilians. This means that the number of uniformed refugees from the GDR rose from nine in 1980 to 15 in 1981.

The GDR method of guarding the border has essentially remained unchanged.

The report places considerable emphasis on its achievements in fighting narcotics-related crimes.

More than 5,000 people were arrested and 192 kilos of hashish confiscated (1980: 69 kilos).

The report lauds the close cooperation between the BGS and the customs and police authorities.

Bonn MP Hans-Joachim Jentsch (CDU), a specialist on internal security, says the report shows the Interior Minister's haphazard way of dealing with the BGS.

Thus, the BGS was to be withdrawn from its quarters in Bad Schwalbach and Walsrode despite the high cost of building them.

Jentsch says what the BGS now needs is a steady security policy by the Bonn government and dependable personnel planning.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 April 1982)

Mailed first of militancy

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The ranks of militant neo-Nazi groupings have swelled still further and so has their inclination to violence, including outright terrorist acts, says Baden-Würtemberg's Interior Minister Roman Herzog.

Militant right wingers are now increasingly modelling their actions on those of left wing extremists, improving on them as they go along, he says.

German neo-Nazis have intensified their contacts with foreign right-wing extremists. Their coordinating centres are in Switzerland, France, Austria, Britain and Belgium.

Although 1981 saw only a slight change in the number of neo-Nazis known to the authorities, the threat to internal security posed by right wing extremists has acquired a new dimension due to the formation of small militant cadres with international links.

Not counting the 6,500 NPD members, the number of followers of neo-Nazi groupings last year rose by 50 to about 1,850. Seventy neo-Nazis plus 80 sympathisers are active in Baden-Württemberg.

Herr Herzog summed up his report, saying: "We know that right-wing terrorism is on the march."

As for left-wing terrorism, he says that the greatest danger still comes from the Red Army Faction (RAF) and the Revolutionary Cells.

The attacks on the US Air Force headquarters in Ramstein and on the commander-in-chief US Forces in Europe, General Kroesen, in Heidelberg showed that the RAF is logistically and in terms of personnel capable of carrying out serious acts of violence, the Minister says.

After a temporary weakening, the number of RAF members operating underground now amounts to about 20 again.

The RAF is now evidently making a bid for the leadership of the "increasingly obvious anti-American drive of left wing extremists. The idea is to recruit militant peripheral groups as support for urban guerrilla action."

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 April 1982)

Iranian battles may boomerang

Mainz, where a group of Khomeini followers beat up anti-Khomeini students, was not the first time Iranians battled it out on German soil.

As on previous occasions, foreign secret services and governments seem to have had a hand in the incident and the Iranian Embassy in Bonn appears to have served as a logistical centre.

These diplomatic missions seem to be trying to neutralise opposition forces in Germany.

Even if no concrete evidence to that effect should come up, this seems to have been the driving motive behind the Mainz brawl.

Yet it would be difficult to deport the 86 Khomeini followers arrested in connection with the fracas because the threat of a seizure of the German Embassy in Tehran must be taken seriously. The American hostages are still fresh in everybody's memory.

Extremist groups of foreigners, be they Turks, Iranians, Yugoslavs or Syrians, help to fuel the anti-foreigner mood with such actions, and the ultimate victims are their totally uninvolved countrymen.

The excesses to which such hostility towards foreigners can lead were shown by bomb attacks on Turkish shops and other property in Dortmund and Cologne, probably by right-wing extremists.

It's a vicious circle.

Klaus-Ulrich Moeller

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 April 1982)

■ LABOUR

Flexi-time expert calls on management and men to scrap fixed working week

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Werner Then, managing director of Randstad, the labour hire company, and president of the German Management Association, has an uneasy feeling about the outlook for the labour market.

Employers and employees, he says, are going to have to rethink their entire attitude. Management and works councils, trade unions and politicians can forget all about the eight-hour day.

For weeks Herr Then has been touring Germany to encourage executives and staff management to set aside fixed ideas on working time.

He sells flexi-time to management and staff for a living and is convinced that neither the employers' grim determination to defend the 40-hour week nor the unions' campaigning for a 35-hour week are the shape of things to come.

Neither, he says, is likely to solve current or future labour market problems. Both are "militarised" arrangements that suit neither company nor staff. Nothing short of a revolution will do.

The revolution he preaches is an open labour market with variable employment structures that has been advocated by experts for some time but so far been largely disregarded by the parties to collective bargaining.

Employers and unions seem only to have been prepared to spare a thought for job sharing in its most primitive form, two people sharing one conventional job.

That, as a rule, is as far as it has gone. After a moment's thought they have been either frankly sceptical or strictly opposed to the whole idea.

Herr Then is a member of the Hesse employers' association and various professional organisations. He is also a Christian Democrat.

But his vision of the future begins where both conservative and socialist officials are for once agreed that the end of the world as we know it is nigh.

Why, he asks, should not one person work less, another more and a third more intensively for a while, then later not at all?

Why should not parents with children of school age work during the school year and go on holiday for exactly the same length of time as their children?

Why should not jobs at visual display units, or computer monitor screens, be made more attractive by cabling the VDU into the typist's or accounts clerk's own home rather than staying in an open-plan office no-one likes?

The advantages of do-it-yourself work routines are self-evident for the employee, Herr Then argues. There is more time for the children or for leisure and social activities.

Staff can gradually slow down their pace of work in preparation for retirement. They should feel happier at being able to work when they want.

Outsiders and dropouts could arguably be reintegrated into society in this way, just as rush hours would be staggered beyond recognition.

Yet personnel managers are horrified by terms such as working time partnership, which is how Randstad render job sharing in German.

Other controversial ideas include contracts on the basis of a specified number of working hours er year, to be spread over the year by mutual arrangement, and working at home.

The list of management objections to any departure from established procedures is impressive. Two part-time workers are usually more expensive than one full-timer.

This is because administrative costs and social benefits are double, as are a number of mandatory stoppages.

Besides, there are difficulties organising work schedules, problems of information and complications in checking working time and output.

Herr Then says they are offset by greater productivity and less absenteeism, not to mention the opportunity of gearing man-hours to orders.

The idea of only using staff when there is work to go round shows that flexi-time by no means reconciles the needs of staff and management.

Staff may feel like a break when orders are slack and like working overtime when business is brisk, but this happy coincidence cannot be expected to be the rule.

Management can be excused for visualising factories and workshops being empty after lunch. Unions can be excused for suspecting that limited freedom to choose working hours will end with staff on permanent standby at the management's whim.

So flexi-time is as unlikely to be a social wonder-weapon as to solve unemployment problems.

The research department of the Federal Labour Office, Nuremberg, reckons flexi-time couls create an extra 2.1m jobs by 1985. Herr Then feels this is unrealistic.

But so, he says, are fears voiced by other experts that flexi-time will on balance create extra unemployment inasmuch as full-time jobs will be replaced by part-timers.

It would be shortsighted to forgo job sharing and all the many flexi-time permutations entirely on account of such objections.

There are wage agreements and they could be used to incorporate compromises that reconcile to some extent the needs of both sides of industry.

Each stands to gain a tactical advantage by dealing with the problem first. The employers could agree to shorter working hours without having to pay the difference.

The unions could ensure by prompt remedial action that new developments in the labour market were not to the financial or social disadvantage of their members.

This was something they failed to do when part-time working was introduced on a wide scale.

Uwe Vorkötter

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 24 April 1982)

Job outlook: overcast

Unemployment in the Federal Republic of Germany

1981 Annual average 1.3m

1982 Annual average 1.8m (est.)

Quarterly figures

1.3 1.1 1.3 1.5 1.9 1.6 1.7 2.0 (estimated)

Early retirement will not really cut dole queues

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

A shorter working life, or early retirement, is an idea to which much thought has been given. But as a means of cutting unemployment it definitely comes second-best to a shorter working week.

Imaginative ideas for early retirement have been drawn up and it would be wrong to say that the burden of more pensioners on the pension schemes has been ignored.

The Free Democrats suggest sending older workers into early retirement at a percentage cut in their pension, which would arguably make no difference to the pension funds.

A number of trade unions favour the pension for older workers as part of a negotiated wage agreement in accordance with plans drawn up by welfare experts at IG Metall, the 2.7m-member iron and steel and engineering workers' union.

Then there is the Döding plan, named after the general secretary of the food and drink workers' union, which is viewed favourably by Labour Ministry officials in Bonn.

It provides for pensions on request at 58 on 68 per cent of take-home pay. Jobs vacated are to be given to unemployed youngsters and the costs of the scheme to be shared by the parties to collective bargaining and the Labour Office.

The Labour Minister is confident that about two over-60s in three and 50 per cent of 58- and 59-year-olds would take up the offer and that 500,000 jobs would become available.

No-one doubts for a moment that it makes more sense to pay an older person an early pension than to make a school-leaver sign on the dole.

But the job-creating effect of a shorter working life is clearly overestimated. Labour Ministry estimates are unrealistic because many people are already retiring earlier than most would imagine.

Since the mid-70s, when retirement at 63 was permitted on application, there has been an irresistible trend toward retirement at 60.

The trend has been encouraged by the increasing readiness of labour authorities and pension funds to grant disability pensions from the age of 60.

The pension schemes say an estimated 25 per cent of men are already pensioned at 60 on health grounds. A further 12 per cent join them by the age of 61.

Forty-seven per cent of women retire at 60. They too are followed by a further 12 per cent by the age of 61.

Officially, retirement is not until 65, but older people who no longer feel up to the strain are finding it fairly easy to arrange for a pension.

Applicants are entitled to a pension at 60 if, for health reasons, they can only work part-time and the job centre is unable to find part-time work for them, which is usually the case.

But only 10 per cent of pensioners at 60 use this ploy. The remainder claim serious disability. Once the welfare office has certified this disability they are not only entitled to free public transport but also to an early pension.

The pension funds are convinced this facility is used too generously. In 50 per cent of cases pensions are granted to applicants with only 50-per-cent disability. The funds would like to see stricter standards applied.

There have been repeated warnings not to base early retirement schemes solely on the current situation. In the 90s labour will be scarce again, statisticians say.

More importantly, there will be more pensioners and fewer people working, so much so that in 50 years' time, it is plausibly argued, there will be one pensioner per employed person.

Early retirement would merely make this situation more serious. The welfare advisory council to the Bonn government has likewise warned against moves that would prove irreversible.

The employers have stalled on early retirement in the chemical industry, and trade unions are having second thoughts too.

The economic and social research unit of DGB, Germany's Düsseldorf-based trade union confederation, says those who want one can already get a pension at 60 to all intents and purposes. So the job creating effect would be negligible.

In this year's wage round IG Metall decide to shelve pension plans and concentrate, unsuccessfully as it happened, on a wage increase in keeping with inflation.

Only in part can this decision be said to have been due to a lack of solidarity with the unemployed. The crucial point will probably have been fears that early retirement would rule out a shorter working week for the foreseeable future.

The demand for a 35-hour week remains at the top of the unions' priority list. It is also universally felt to be the likeliest prospect of relieving the burden of unemployment.

Earlier retirement remains desirable, but in the fight against unemployment it seems destined to play a back-seat role.

Joachim Hauck

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 17 April 1982)

■ FINANCE

In the shadow of the dollar, but the mark flexes its biceps again

The deutschemark is carrying far more weight internationally than it did last summer.

It is well on its way to regaining its traditional strength. There is constant talk about revaluing it within the European Monetary System (EMS).

But the deutschemark does not appear to be so hard a currency as it once was.

This is because the dollar is so strong. The mark is still weak against the dollar and has dropped 40 per cent against it since 1979.

But it has appreciated considerably over the past few months against other currencies, mainly because of the German success at holding inflation.

Since the value of a currency is traditionally measured by the dollar and since everybody takes only the exchange rate against the world's number one reserve and international trade currency, the true strength of the deutschemark has largely gone unnoticed.

The success of the deutschemark thus paled in the face of a phenomenon that had not been recorded for a long time: a dollar that is hard simultaneously with the deutschemark.

The dollar was frequently so soft that often cartoonists depicted it walking on crutches. But now everybody, and Germans in particular, is surprised to see the dollar displaying an amazing hardness as a result of America's remarkable successes in fighting inflation, its tight money and high interest rate policy



coupled with some favourable political developments.

Germans had become accustomed to taking it as a law of nature that their currency would appreciate against the dollar.

And when this did not happen, they thought it was only temporary because oil price rises had put Germany's balance of payments into the red.

Even the continued strength of the dollar in 1980 and 1981 was seen as no more than an episode.

There was a time when the Germans — and not only they — kept calling for a strong dollar. Now that they have it they are dissatisfied.

The constant appreciation of the deutschemark against the dollar in former years bolstered the Bundesbank's stability policy and paid off because Germany's import prices rose much more slowly than world market prices.

But those days seem to be gone — at least for the moment and so far as the long-term trend is concerned.

The sensational drop in the US inflation rate within a single year (from 14 to 7 per cent) makes for a hard dollar.

Even so, it is pretty certain that the US currency will come down from its present unrealistic level once interest rates begin to decline.

But it is most unlikely that it will drop to its position of 1980 when a dollar was worth only DM1.70.

What does this mean for Germany's monetary policy? For one thing, it means that Germany will have to go it alone on its course of the past two years aimed at monetary stability and a balanced current account.

For another, it means that American interest rates will have a much greater bearing on our economic performance than they did in the 1960s and 1970s.

As long as the United States continues charging high interest rates for loans, German interest levels will also remain higher than called for in view of our economic situation and the unemployment that plagues us.

This is in no way changed by the fact that interest rates in this country have declined slightly.

There is yet another point that appears even more important in the long run: if the dollar actually stay relatively strong and if its exchange rate stays markedly above its current buying power of about DM2, Germany's competitiveness on world markets will benefit and exports will be promoted.

But favourable though this might be for Germany's ailing economy any long-term undervalued deutschemark would be dangerous.

It could lead to a repeat of the disastrous consequences of the 1970s when

How the mark changed in 1981
+6.8% in European Monetary System
+3.2% against the 23 most important trading partners
Source: Bundesbank
against Swiss franc −11.4%
−13.1% against US$

German industry failed to adapt in time to world markets.

Enjoying the fruits of an under-rated deutschemark that promotes exports and puts the brakes on imports, German companies could be slow to adjust to market changes by stepping up research and developing new production methods and products.

In three, five or perhaps even in ten years, this could detract from our only just regained competitiveness and make whole branches of industry shrink — with all this would entail for the nation's economy as a whole.

Monetary policy makers must therefore try to bring about a realistic exchange rate against the dollar as well.

But this can only be achieved through stepped up political confidence-building measures, through less close ties with weak European partner currencies and — for better or for worse — through a very cautious reduction of interest rates.

Hans Georg Linder
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 21 April 1982)

Foreign subsidiaries of German firms sail into rough seas

Many German companies are having problems with their foreign subsidiaries.

The prime example is Volkswagen's Brazilian operation: it lost DM457m last year.

Other major examples include BASF, Hoechst, Thyssen, Tengelmann and Hugo Mann.

Yet last year was a record for direct German investment in foreign countries: DM10bn. The year before it was DM8.2bn.

BASF of Ludwigshafen had a double misfortune. Its American subsidiary, BASF Wyandotte, closed last year's books with a loss of US$40m. And close to double that amount was lost as a result of exchange rates.

Hoechst's American subsidiary, American Hoechst Corp. (AHC), also closed in the red.

Thyssen chief executive Dieter Spethmann had to tell his stockholders that, following the previous year's profits of US$69m, the American Thyssen subsidiary, Budd Company, America's largest maker of brake components and railway wagons, lost US$75m last year.

Small wonder then that this year's round of AGMs was marked by a depressed mood. High interest rates world-wide, a tide of bankruptcies, stagnation and protectionism have made the prospects for German direct investments abroad dim.

People are often surprised by the huge amount of foreign investments by private companies and the problems they run into, even in stable North America.

Two men who know the feeling are Tengelmann chief executive Erivan Karl Haub and Hugo Mann who heads the group that bears his name.

Mann, who built up the German retail chain Wertkauf-Center and the furniture chain Mann-Möbelgeschäfte, was persuaded by the Wall Street banker Heinz L. Gundlach to buy a stake in the Californian supermarket chain Fed Mart Corp., San Diego.

Mann has had to add many a million to the original DM50m it cost him in May 1975 to secure a 63 per cent equity in Fed Mart.

But ever since Mann became the man with the absolute say in his Californian subsidiary the fortunes of the supermarket chain have been declining and the losses mounting.

Tengelmann's misfortune with the well-known American supermarket chain Atlantic & Pacific Company, known throughout the States as A & P, was if anything greater.

A & P's problems also started after Tengelmann bought a 42 per cent stake in the 119-year-old retail giant in 1979.

Haub then paid more than DM200m for absolute control. The idea was to put it back on its feet through a slimming cure.

But although A & P closed another 377 outlets during the last business year, reducing the number from the 4,500 during the chain's heyday to about 1,500 now, there is still no end in sight to its problems.

Despite sales of close to US$7bn, the last business year closed with losses of more than US$30m.

Haub pins his hopes on his British chief executive of A & P, James Wood. He is not prepared to throw in the towel.

But he is looking for a partner. Wall Street bankers, though, are wondering how long the German company can sustain such losses.

Tengelmann's fate could well be the same as that of the French Agache Willot Group that burned its fingers with the American Korvette chain.

In any event, *Business Week* recently spoke of bad news about certain foreign investments distorting an essentially positive picture.

Latest figures released by the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry show that last year's direct investments abroad were slightly less than DM10bn — a considerable increase over the previous year's DM8.2bn and a record.

It has probably come as a surprise for many people that direct investments in the Third World rose steeply, reaching DM2.3bn, as against DM7.3bn that went to industrial countries.

The Third World's share thus rose from 14 to 23 per cent.

Another surprise element in the last report was the fact that direct foreign investments in Germany also rose steeply (from DM2.4bn in 1980 to DM4bn in 1981). Obviously, Germany still holds an attraction for investors.

How well do German investments abroad pay off? The business reports of German subsidiaries provide an incomplete picture. But this is amplified by the statistics provided by the Bundesbank — though unfortunately with a considerable time lag.

The Bundesbank has only just published its report for 1979, a year when the world economy was in considerably better shape than today.

While the figures released by the Economic Affairs Ministry (which do not lag that far behind) are based on current account transactions, the Bundesbank's statistics are based on the balance sheets of about 20,000 companies that are obliged to file their reports.

Only these extensive statistics provide data on the earnings resulting from the direct investments of German companies abroad.

These data are of course much more representative than the fragmentary profit and loss reports of individual companies.

According to the central bank's statistics, German subsidiaries transferred about DM1bn in dividends and interest to the accounts of their parent companies in the pre-recession year 1979.

This is about one-sixth of the money German companies need for their foreign investments.

The conclusion to be drawn is that the foreign subsidiaries of German companies are still far from being able to stand on their own feet.

Klaus Engelen
(Rheinischer Merkur / Christ und Welt, 23 April 1982)



■ INDUSTRY

Inefficiency, higher taxes, higher debts — the case against the public sector

There is a curiously perverse trait in German reformers: they call for state action, as if the public sector with all its bureaucracy could ever be a source of progress and efficiency.

The outcome is stepped up state activity resulting in ever more tutelage. It is this kind of "welfare state" that now means it is becoming increasingly profitable to promote one's own interests through state measures rather than make an effort in the marketplace.

One of the typical features of this system is that the state's ability to solve problems diminishes in direct proportion to its growing involvement.

This inevitably runs down state finances with disastrous consequences for employment and the nation's money.

There is something paradoxical about this: it was the constantly repeated thesis of the "failure of the market" during the late capitalist era that promoted this oppressive bloating of the state. The trouble is that those who kept calling for more state involvement did not ask themselves whether the state bureaucracy could perform better than market forces, given the same economic conditions.

The truth is that state intervention has led to a worsening of the overall economic position because there are some typical weaknesses that make the state inefficient and lead to economic failures.

To start with, there is the revenue

Christ und Welt
Rheinischer Merkur

side of the state budget with its hidden tax increases. The progression from one tax bracket to the next higher one is faster than the rise in the nation's income.

This applies even when the rise in private sector incomes in times of inflation is insufficient to improve the true standard of living and when it only offsets losses in buying power.

These hidden tax increases thus become a permanent feature without the need to change the rate of taxation or to involve parliament in any way whatsoever.

There can be no doubt that this mechanism of automatic tax increases is an important element of the state's failure in the economic sector.

What happens is that more and more economic resources that are in short supply are removed from the private sector and thus the discipline imposed by the market. But nobody takes the trouble to check beforehand whether there was any need in the first place to use these resources for the public sector.

Take the legislative periods: laws that at the time they were enacted still stuck within the framework of a given tax revenue frequently generate a marked increase in spending during the subsequent periods.

In other words, politicians who make the decisions rely on a rising volume of revenue and leave the rest to the finance minister.

Another element that contributes to the state's failure is the rising public sector debt. The fathers of present day constitutions evidently underestimated the temptation that lies in borrowing to finance government spending.

On private capital markets the state always has more clout than its private competitor.

Since — initially — the state's borrowing has no effect on taxation, it is in a position to expand secretly behind the citizen's back, so to speak.

Small wonder then, that this easy instrument of additional finance has led to over-investment in public infrastructures without anybody asking about the follow-up costs.

Hospitals that shut down virtually before they open, schools that never become operational and other disused public sector facilities are telling examples of state inefficiency. They are evidence of policy making without regard for the actual needs of the public.

Even so, state expansion would remain inexplicable if it were not for the drive to provide "public sector goodies".

Politicians regard an increased offer of state-to-public transfers as an additional distribution instrument that could appeal to large sectors of the public. And for some reason they consider redistribution initiatives something of high ethical value.

This is promoted by the fact that the public almost instinctively tends to reach for what it can get: everybody hesitates to live at the expense of the fellow man he knows; but the moment such a nebulous being as the state offers handouts, the takers queue up — literally.

These public handouts are one of the prime examples of the state's failure. For the taker, they sever the natural link between the price and what it buys, which is the essence of the marketplace.

Since these public benefits are offered for free or at cost it is only natural that demand should rise. And these goods and services that can (seemingly) be had for free are distributed rather lavishly, making for waste on a mammoth scale.

Politics and bureaucracy go hand in hand. Both the drive for public sector revenue and the state's spending activity require a huge machinery that operates according to rigid rules.

The more tax the state collects and the more it expands its range of services the more this bureaucracy grows.

Those who keep complaining about the insufferably bloated bureaucracy while at the same time clamouring for subsidies, protectionism and more social security tend to overlook this.

The specific peculiarities of the state naturally extend to public sector companies and utilities. This makes the capital these companies have accumulated the more surprising. The explanation for this is not that market forces have failed.

It has more to do with the tax relief that the state grants to its own enterprises. Moreover, these state companies are not subject to control by the anti-trust authorities.

A monopoly organisation does not improve its attitude towards the public simply because it is controlled by the state. On the contrary. This only increases its market power.

The Federal Postal Authority is a prime example, not only because of its policy on telephone charges but also because of its dogged fight against potential private competitors on the new telecommunications market.

And, finally, state failure includes a wage policy that is typical for the public sector. The people who work here never have to worry about their jobs.

And since — unlike in the private sector — there is no international competition, there is also no check on excessive wage demands.

Bruno Molitor
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 23. April 1982)

Worker-owned company fails

One of West Germany's most speccacular and important staff-owned companies has failed.

The end for Photo Porst came just as the Bonn coalition government resurrected the issue of capital accumulation by staff in companies they work for.

The opponents of staff-owned companies will now see themselves vindicated.

But the end of the "Porst model", which involved 1,400 staff members, was due to market conditions.

The tough competition in the photo market and the breathtaking technological progress in the video sector required the kind of capital that could only be raised by taking on a new partner.

The staff could no longer foot the losses and tried to find a new capitalist. He was found in Switzerland.

Hannsheinz Porst, the former owner of the company, had woven defects into his model: the staff participation was ordained from above and implemented too fast.

This meant that employees barely had time to study the model. In addition, dividends were high.

To make matters worse, the head of the whole scheme was too quick to withdraw from it.

What he left behind was a staff inadequately prepared both financially and mentally to cope with a tough market.

There is no such thing as an island of bliss in our competitive society.

Ulrich Viehöfer
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 28 April 1982)

Exports keep economy alive but more jobs will have to go

Exports last year saved the Federal Republic of Germany from plunging into a recession almost as deep as Britain's, says Munich economist Gernot Nerb.

He says that only foreign trade prevented the decline in gross national product from dropping below 0.5 per cent.

However, this is not an automatic boost to the economy, nor something to rely on in the long run — in fact not beyond the end of this year, was the predominant opinion at the Hanover fair.

The fair, the biggest industrial fair in the world, showed both that business needs new plant and equipment and that it can't always get it.

High interest rates in the United States and in Western Europe are preventing investment; the East bloc, which is in debt up to its ears, cannot put its hands on foreign exchange while the Opec countries have had to review ambitious plans because they are earning less.

Only the office equipment and data processing industry was in high spirits. Technological breakthroughs have opened entirely new markets.

By now even small and very small companies can make use of microelectronics. The trouble is that all those computers in shops, offices and workshops create new problems.

They are now the "specialised" workers for thousands of types of activities and displace hundreds of thousands of people from their traditional jobs, especially typists, filing and accounts clerks.

This second structural change in the economy will have an even greater impact on the labour market than did the change of the 1970s.

Then it was primarily jobs in those branches of industry that could no longer compete with cheap Third World imports that were lost. Now it is the office jobs in all branches of business that are in jeopardy.

Nine out of ten bank employees, says the White Collar Workers' Union, now wish for better protection from cut backs. The computer is not welcomed by all.

On the other hand, cutbacks enable business to remain competitive.

In view of the high incomes Germany by international standards and the cost to the employer of social security and other fringe benefits which now add 70 per cent to the basic salary, the payroll is naturally a major cost factor.

As a result, even if the economy should improve, further jobs are bound to be lost.

The parties to collective bargaining and economic policy makers must face these developments with the necessary realism.

Once before our policy makers made the disastrous mistake of pumping billions into industries that could not work to capacity and so keeping unprofitable branches of industry afloat instead of permitting them to go under even if this entailed the loss of jobs.

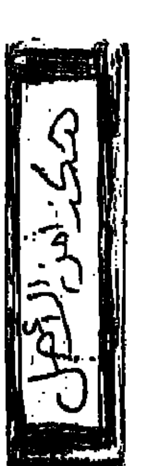
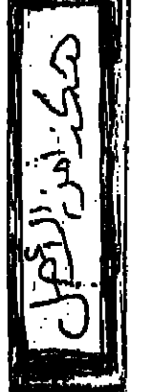
This applies to Europe's steel industry as it does to northern Germany's shipbuilders. The race against market forces cannot be won through subsidies.

The 1 May Labour Day will see many workers demonstrating for their interests. But this is neither 1890 nor 1932.

Practical solidarity with the jobless, as demanded by the unions, can neither mean that we must forgo consolidating our public sector finances nor that we must postpone rationalisation.

The aim must be to maintain high productivity and remain competitive on international markets to earn enough money to enable the government to accomplish present and future social objectives.

Wolfgang Bühmann
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 28 April 1982)

■ VIEWPOINT

'Bonn policy a poor indicator of how Germans feel,' says Dahrendorf

Hamburg sociologist Ralf Dahrendorf, 53, is head of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

When you live abroad and travel a lot too you will find yourself confronted almost daily with questions about Germany.

I find this happening to me even in Britain, where I have been living for the past eight years without, at times, being asked anything about Germany for months.

The latest trend is no less marked in France and, naturally enough, in the United States, but it will also be encountered among friendly foreigners all over the world.

The questions you are asked are worried questions, and since German politicians tend to use them solely as party-political ammunition it could be useful to say, clearly and without fear or favour, what is worrying other people.

But let me first say that other people's worries need not be shared. Others might like to see Germany take a specific course of action, but it is not bound to be in Germany's best interest.

This, however, is sidetracking towards another German problem: the inclination to abandon one's policy tack in order to be loved by others.

Most conversations begin with the statement that the Schmidt era is now over. It is universally agreed to have been a good one.

Even Conservatives have been known to say they would prefer a Schmidt under the weather to a Kohl in finest fettle, but no-one expects the current Bonn coalition to be still capable of convincing action with the future in mind.

The Bonn government is seen in the world at large as aging gracefully, or more or less gracefully.

And they see no evident alternative, which brings one to the next set of questions. What is there to the peace movement? Who are the Greens?

There is a widespread feeling that the Free Democrats will one day switch allegiance, but few expect floor-crossing to provide long-term answers.

More deep-seated doubts now arise. Germany, a leading European not long ago announced, with due exaggeration, will be the world's major problem in the decade ahead.

This can be taken with a pinch of salt, but how is it that he could even say anything of the kind?

After the war, a leading British politician says, many of us warned against a repeat of Rapallo. It would have been nonsense then, but now he is not so sure...

This, then, is the first major topic: the Germans and the Russians, the natural gas pipeline, Bonn's reaction to events in Poland, and Ostpolitik as appeasement rather than as a return to normal relations.

Are the Germans up to their tricks of old again? It adds a touch of bitter irony that Helmut Schmidt, a tried and trusted Nato man, is associated with this tendency rather than Willy Brandt.

The German reaction to Poland has given rise to shock waves all over the free world. It is not a matter of sanctions, and not even of the natural gas pipeline, but of the lack of a spontaneous sense of outrage at the imposition of military dictatorship such as came as a matter of course to President Mitterrand.

Was it really necessary for Bonn to accord a reception to a man who, as Polish Deputy Prime Minister, was responsible for the internment of thousands of freedom-loving patriots?

Is the veneer of freedom in Germany much thinner after all than has long been felt to be the case?

Two suppositions are made in this connection. The first, harsher one is that Bonn is carefully trying to avoid anything that might upset the Russians.

The second, milder one is that Bonn is at all events keen to make common cause with the countries of Eastern Europe, its aim being to pave the way for a nuclear-free zone.

For many foreigners this is one of the more surprising ideas to have arisen in political debate in Germany. Why, they ask, should the Germans have any such intention?

This is the point at which a term recurs that I have not for ages heard as often as in recent months. It is reunification.

Some feel there has been a shift in German political priorities from the defence of freedom in the Western alliance to reunification as the overriding objective.

Even though no-one seriously expects reunification to be at all likely, some still feel ti is one reason why there has been a change in political emphasis in Germany.

German policy is, perhaps, a term that needs further explanation. I was recently visited by the Bonn correspondent of a leading American newspaper. He had this to say:

"The paper calls me nearly every week and tells me to file copy on the renaissance of neutralism and pacifism in Germany.

"So I go talk to people and find no trace of either. Does this new movement really exist or doesn't it?"

In official politics, I told him, it doesn't, and that is one of Germany's current problems. Public opinion is being transferred to a level slightly below politics, with the result that politics is increasingly suspended in mid-air.

German policy has come to be a poor indicator of what Germans feel.

This is an explanation that does not reassure people, and they do indeed seem to be feeling a little worried about Germany.

Some see the Greens and the peace movement mainly as a revival of German cultural pessimism, a trend that with some justification is felt to have been an intellectual precursor of National Socialism.

Many are wondering which way Germany is heading, regardless who holds the reins of power. Everyone is on the lookout for solutions.

Most rule out Europe, or the European Community as we know it, as a solution. Germany's friends in Europe are well aware that willingness to pay the lion's share of the EEC budget provides useful protection from awkward questions and could be a token of lack of interest.

The excitement with which Britain continues to discuss its contribution to the Common Market shows that the British can certainly not be dismissed as indifferent where Europe is concerned.

No, the European Community is no longer felt to bind the Federal Republic of Germany in any real way.

Then there is the much-vaunted German *angst*, which half the world finds most amusing. Why, German visitors wonder, are the British not more worried? After all, they are much worse off.

This is doubtless true, but anxiety has little to do with GNP or real income. In Germany it is a reaction to the shabby picture the country cuts in the world at large.

Germans themselves have no idea what they want and promptly feel worried. This is the point at which the limitation of political debate in Germany backfires, a state of affairs in which much that major groups think is no longer mentioned.

Official orthodoxy on issues such as defence, Europe and Ostpolitik is no longer good enough. This at least is a lesson to be learnt from the difficult talks one is bound to hold these days as a German abroad.

Ralf Dahrendorf

(Die Zeit, 16 April 1982)

Ghost of Rapallo — born in 1922 and still going strong

Just as prophecies can be self-fulfilling, so the unvarnished truth often yields to the spellbinding power of legend. A legend 60 years old this year is associated with the Treaty of Rapallo between Germany and the Soviet Union.

Legends, by twisting and reinterpreting history, themselves make history, although contemporaries usually fail to sense the change.

There is no lack of more recent examples. Many Germans still believe, 30 years after the Stalin note, that Russia seriously intended offering Germany reunification in freedom.

Yalta too stands for an evergreen legend, seemingly ineradicable, that the West surrendered Poland at the 1945 Yalta summit.

Yet Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed that liberated people were to be allowed the right to choose the form of government they preferred.

Rapallo, 60 years old this year, stands not just for a treaty between the German Reich and the Soviet Union but for all manner of hopes and anxieties in connection with Germany allegedly throwing in its lot with Russia.

What is so weird about the comparison is that political realities have changed totally since 1922. For decades Moscow has recalled the anniversary of Rapallo as an example of an alternative to alliance with the West but chosen to overlook a fundamental difference.

In 1922 Germany and Russia were the humiliated losers of the First World War. They resolved, in humiliation and isolation, to forgo claims against each other, to accord each other most-favoured nation status, or free trade, and to re-establish diplomatic ties.

When Konrad Adenauer restored ties with Moscow in 1955 the Soviet Union was not a loser; it had emerged from the Second World War as a totalitarian empire with borders running through the middle of Germany.

Adenauer's Ostpolitik was no more a bid to play off one side against the other than Willy Brandt's was to be in the late 60s and early 70s.

Both Bonn Chancellors acted in agreement with their Western allies. Both knew from experience that the merest suspicion the Germany might be irresolute would immediately conjure up the spectre of Rapallo in Western capitals.

The Italian riviera resort has gone down in history as a symbol of Western anxiety about the unpredictable Germans. Legends have a habit of lasting.

The current desire for peace in the Federal Republic of Germany is associated for many reasons with visions of neutrality. The spirit of Rapallo has promptly been given a fresh lease of life in both Moscow and the West.

It proves only that the irrational is ever-present in history.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 April 1982)

Reich Chancellor Wirth chats with Soviet delegates Krassin and Chicherin in Rapallo. (Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

■ NATURE

Fourteen-ton ducks give jumbo jets the bird

Fly with your visor down, Bundeswehr pilots are warned. It is the last line of defence between your eyes and a 14-ton duck.

This is neither a joke nor a misprint. A head-on collision between jet aircraft and birds of the feathered variety can be catastrophic.

There are many of them on the wing at this time of the year. It is their migration season.

Biologists at the Office of Defence Geophysics in Traben-Trarbach on the Moselle, where the bird problem has been studied for years, have worked out what effect a collision can have.

At altitudes of between 150 and 500 metres the impact made by a sparrow at 720km/h is equivalent to a weight of 1.4 tons, that of a crane on the wing to a weight of 320 tons.

If a swan were to crash head-on with a low-flying jet travelling at 720km/h, its force of impact would be equivalent to a weight of 480 tons.

This is not just a theoretical equation. Starlings, crows and wild ducks have been known to smash the reinforced glass of cockpit windscreens.

They have torn up sheet aluminium like paper and deformed or punched a hole through aircraft wings.

A few years ago a buzzard smashed the cockpit windscreen of a Bundeswehr Lockheed Starfighter, penetrated the pilot's flying gear and seriously wounded him in the chest.

He made an emergency landing and was rushed to the operating theatre, where surgeons removed pieces of buzzard from inside him.

The risk to man and machine is just as serious when a bird flies into the nozzle of a plane's jet engines. Bird strikes cost millions a year in damages.

They have even been known to cause crashes of aircraft up to and including jumbo-sized airliners.

Statistics kept at a Luftwaffe base in Schleswig-Holstein showed a year ago that nearly 50 per cent of flight accidents were due to birds.

Closer examination of the traces left by the hapless birds show the main offenders to be starlings, thrushes, crows, peewits, gulls, doves and partridges.

They are the birds that are usually to blame for endangering or crashing aircraft taking off from or landing at airports and air bases.

Since the birds are not going to pay any attention to rules and regulations, aviation officials are trying to find other solutions to the problem.

A partial solution is to clear the runway and surroundings of bushes and tall grass of the kind birds use to build nests.

Garbage dumps are also increasingly being phased out in the vicinity of airports and runways. They attract seagulls like bears go for honey.

But optical and acoustic bids to scare the birds away soon lose any effect they may initially have had. Birds soon disregard sirens, pistol shots and models of larger birds of prey.

Birds are attracted to runways just as they have always been attracted to the marshland where airports and air bases are so often built.

Marshland has always been a bird's paradise, but concrete runways and lighting can be an added atraction. Their heat and light attract insects.

Hungry birds are not going to be distracted by the roar of aircraft jets when the runway is crawling with tasty food. About 70 per cent of bird strikes occur near the runway.

The remainder occur en route at higher altitudes, especially when millions of migrating birds are on the wing.

This is the time of year when air safety control maintains a special lookout.

Since 1972 more than a dozen radar stations set up specially for this purpose in the Federal Republic of Germany have monitored bird migration round the clock.

Bird strike warnings are issued by the radar stations and ornithologists also submit details of migration patterns to air safety control authorities.

Radar ornithology, says a Traben-Trarbach official, has opened up entirely new evenues, enabling us, for instance, to identify birds that fly by night.

The first pilots who reported flocks of birds in the night sky were usually greeted with pitying smiles by scientists, but advanced observation techniques proved that they were right.

Birds at times migrate at altitudes of 8,000 metres and more. Biologists and air safety control officers agree that cooperation is essential if the frequency of bird strikes is to be reduced.

Gerhard Taube

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 23 April 1982)

Birds of prey to be culled

North Rhine-Westphalia is to relax a ban on hunting birds of prey that has been in force for 12 years because there are too many of them.

Buzzards and goshawks are so numerous that they are reported to be causing serious damage.

Pigeon-fanciers are particularly worried. Breeding carrier pigeons is a popular sport in the Ruhr, and the subject is one on which feelings run high.

The 100,000 pigeon-fanciers are fond of their birds. So are the buzzards.

So Agriculture Minister Hans-Otto Bäumer is to issue regulations that will mark the end of the close season for birds of prey.

A Bonn research unit reckons North Rhine-Westphalia's 2,000-odd breeding goshawk pairs tuck into about 100,000 pigeons a year.

Huntsmen take a dim view of the goshawk too. It makes a meal out of small game.

Dr Erhard Ueckermann, head of the Bonn game research unit, says: "They eat about 10,000 partridges a year. The partridge is more in need of protection than the goshawk."

Farmers also complain about goshawks. You can no longer afford to allow chickens to run around free-range on the farm, they say.

The quest for a solution to the problem has proved difficult and emotion-laden. The hunting lobby proposed lifting the ban on shooting buzzards and goshawks for a limited period.

But ornithologists and conservationists suspected a massacre of birds would be the result. So the proposed regulations will permit controlled reduction in the numbers of birds of prey subject to the need being proven and to approval by the Bonn research unit and the state ecology department.

Birds will be trapped, not shot. Dr Hugo Schlepper of the state hunting association says the idea was put forward by his organisation.

Goshawks are hard to hit, and marksmen could easily mistake other, protected species of bird for them and shoot them instead.

Horst Zimmermann

(Bremer Nachrichten, 17 April 1982)

Bonn 'to blame' for fewer hares

With Germans already paying the earth for quails and their eggs, the hare and the partridge seem on the verge of extinction.

Pheasants, originally imported from Asia, are also increasingly scarce and expensive. Bonn and Brussels are to blame, says a Bavarian official.

The dire straits of the hare and other small game are due to chemicals in their food and the dearth of hedges, bushes and trees as cover for what are very shy animals.

Max Fischer, the Bavarian state secretary for environmental affairs, says misguided farm policies in Bonn and Brussels are responsible.

He has told the Bavarian hunting association in Berchtesgaden that German agriculture's rationalisation race is dubious ecologically and economically.

He says it is to blame for 520 danger-listed species of fauna being in acute danger of extinction.

With about 20,000 tons of dangerous chemicals a year marketed in the Federal Republic of Germany, nature is being sprayed to death.

Eighty-nine species of plant face imminent extinction, with the result that roast hare and pheasant are as a rule imported, mainly from Eastern Europe.

Small game is not hunted much any longer either. In most areas partridges have not been hunted for years, while quails are listed and hunting them is prohibited.

In recent years huntsmen have given up using beaters to flush out small game. With cover and food depleted, there is none left to speak of.

ddp

(Mannheimer Morgen, 26 April 1982)

Holidaymakers endanger listed flora

Farming is still mainly to blame for endangering the survival of flowers and plants, but holidaymakers come an increasingly close second, says a Munich biologist.

Agriculture is heavily dependent on chemicals and mechanisation. They decimate more than the hedgerows. Due to farming techniques there are fewer flowers around at this time of the year than there used to be.

There are 822 species of flora danger-listed in the Federal Republic of Germany. Four out of five are threatened by intensive cultivation, the remainder by the tourist trade.

Marcus Riederer of the Nature Conservation Association's Bavarian region, where endangered species are his brief, dealt with the problem at a Munich Press conference.

Basing his allegations on evaluation of listed species by the Federal Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology Research Institute, he made a startling and seemingly absurd claim.

True nature-lovers, he said, would not, as holidaymakers, rush out into unspoilt countryside; they would stay as close to their holiday homes as possible.

Tourism jeopardises the survival of flowers and herbs, bushes and trees. Moorland and grass turf, Alpine and sub-Alpine vegetation are in particular danger.

Biologists say hikers' boots can wreak havoc, as can camping and sports such as horse-riding, canoeing and skiing that might not normally be considered unduly dangerous.

But they do more damage than ski lifts, lookout platforms and bathing beaches.

Only a handful of species, such as the gentian, the lady's slipper and the edelweiss, run a serious risk of extinction because people pluck them or uproot them.

Yet 12 listed species are threatened by collectors. Hubert Weinzierl, Bavaria's chief conservationist, says it is an offence against nature these days to pluck snowdrops, daphne and pasqueflowers to put them in a vase.

This is not, of course, to say that the accusing finger pointed at people who pluck a bunch of wayside flowers must be allowed to distract attention from farming and agricultural engineering, which are the main offenders.

It is 20 years since the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and 100 years since Darwin died. Herr Weinzierl said evolution was steadily evolving into nothing.

We had to decide whether to forgo many species of flora or to keep people out of the countryside, or part of it, for some of the time.

The extinction of species was not just a tragedy in itself. It also spelt disaster for animals that ate them. If nettles no longer existed, six species of butterfly would vanish.

Legal means to deal with the problem were entirely inadequate. Both Federal and Bavarian legislation merely banned plucking or uprooting endangered species, which was not enough.

To help ensure the survival of some of the last refuges of nature the Nature Conservation Association is to buy another 26 pieces of land in Bavaria this year, using cash in hand and donations.

Trespassing will be absolutely forbidden in some cases. In all cases the land will be kept in its unspoilt state.

It will include the only dead ice valley in Central Europe, with valuable trees near Garmisch; a 200-year-old oak grove near Kelheim and a patch of marshland near Günzburg housing orchids and many kinds of amphibian creatures.

Last year an area of Bavaria the size of Chiemsee, the state's largest lake, was despoiled by being dried out, flattened, clad in concrete, built over or converted into living accommodation.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 April 1982)

THE ENVIRONMENT

Huge investment needed before household garbage recycling gives cash return

A lot of money needs to be spent on research, development and plant before recycling of household garbage becomes financially worthwhile, delegates to a Berlin conference heard.

Benno Risch, of the EEC Commission in Brussels, said that every year between 60m and 80m tonnes of domestic waste could be recycled in the 10 Common Market countries.

The saving to the EEC in commodity imports would be between 10m and 12m European Currency Units a year, plus between 1m and 1.2m ECUs in garbage disposal costs.

Between 10 and 20 million tonnes of oil could be saved every year.

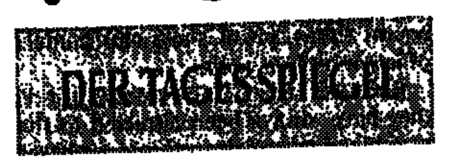
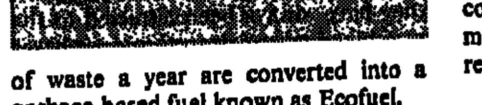
About 1,400 specialists from more than 40 countries were at the Third International Recycling Congress.

It was organised by Professor Thome-Kozminsky, of Berlin's University of Technology, for the Bonn Ministry of Research and the EEC.

Commodity recycling from domestic waste is still in its early days both organisationally and in terms of technology.

In the EEC Italy is the only country with any length of experience in mechanically sorting waste on an industrial scale.

In Germany there are several large-scale pilot projects. At Herten in the Ruhr, for instance, about 40,000 tonnes

of waste a year are converted into a garbage-based fuel known as Ecofuel.

Five tonnes of waste yield 1.5 tonnes of Ecofuel and a quarter tonne of scrap.

Since the end of 1981 a private enterprise garbage recycling company has reclaimed paper, plastic, metal and glass from waste in Neuss, near Düsseldorf.

But the most advanced and economic method of handling domestic waste is still incineration. The 42 incinerators in the Federal Republic of Germany meet roughly 0.4 per cent of the country's primary energy requirements.

This result is achieved by incinerating 6.3 million tonnes of waste per year, or about a quarter of the domestic output.

Great things were expected a few years ago of pyrolysis, but it has not yet lived up to expectations, the congress was told by Professor Thome-Kozminsky.

This technique, he said, had yet to prove in large-scale trials that it was suitable for use in handling domestic waste.

Professor Schmitt-Tegge of the Berlin-based *Umweltbundesamt*, or Environmental Protection Agency, felt it might prove more useful in handling waste of uniform composition, such as plastic or used tyres.

So, apart from glass and waste paper collections, household garbage in Germany is largely disposed of rather than recycled.

But experts agreed in West Berlin that by the end of the decade nearly half the country's output of domestic waste would be recycled in one way or another.

This was because there would be increasing difficulty in finding sites for use as waste dumps.

Household garbage contains an increasingly high percentage of harmful substances, such as cleansing agents, solvents, medicine, batteries and pesticides.

So waste dumps are a growing danger to ground water and soil, while incineration raises problems in connection with exhaust fumes.

But waste need not only be recycled; it could also be avoided, the congress was repeatedly told, although this idea was still in its early days where domestic garbage was concerned.

Incentives to cut down on waste altogether are expected to be provided by amendments to the Waste Disposal Act that are due to be put to the Bonn Bundestag this year,

The new-look Act will make recycling mandatory, although mainly in connection with commercial and industrial waste. It may also include a tax on packaging, which will be aimed mainly at no deposit-no return beverage containers.

The congress outlined various ways of putting waste to better use as a source of raw materials, but there are no revolutionary changes in the pipeline.

Recycling specialists have grown more level-headed. Recent experience has shown that waste recycling brings up technological problems that must be solved before further progress is possible.

Besides, there is no point in recycling commodities until you are sure there is a market for them.

Definite figures were stated in connection with household waste and what could be recycled from it, whereas only individual examples of how industrial waste could be harnessed were given.

They include reclaiming heavy metals from water-based solutions by means of micro-organisms, reclaiming overspray in spray-painting and regaining aluminium and iron from ash at coal-fired power stations.

As for waste avoidance, industrial efforts are aimed at construction and process engineering geared to result in as little waste as possible.

It was also learnt that alongside process waste special waste totalling three million tonnes a year and including waste chemicals, acid, oil sludge and solvents has tended to decline in quantity over the past few years.

But what it has lost in quantity it has made up for in quality. This special waste has grown perceptibly more toxic.

Marion Kern

(Der Tagesspiegel, 24 April 1982)

ARTS

Munich arts centre faces runaway costs, aims to combine quality and profit

Munich has long been planning to build a multi-purpose arts centre to house the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra and host a wide range of other activities.

But costs keep snowballing, making one wonder not only whether the project will ever be carried out but also whether the arts can be run at anywhere near a profit these days.

It is when times are hard, Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum consolingly notes, that a country shows how serious it is, in an arts policy contect, about claims to be civilised.

Municipal arts directors, having been told point-blank that spending cuts will hit their budgets hard, will be wondering what to make of the Minister's fine words.

How can they be serious about promoting the arts on a large scale when subsidies to theatres, museums, orchestras and opera houses are being out to the bone?

As funds are simply not available, is it a golden opportunity for abandoning the watering can principle of subsidising the arts indiscriminately?

Indiscriminate subsidies can often be an endless drain on resources without in any way ensuring "house full" notices.

Cash alone, especially when it seems to be invested as a matter of course, guarantees neither success nor quality. Individuals, not institutions, make the arts what they are, thank heavens.

Yet the arts scene around Germany seems full of contradictions, with examples ranging from, say, Frankfurt to Bayreuth.

In Frankfurt the municipal theatres are subsidised to the hilt, but disputes over who is responsible for what have sent them plummeting to artistic zero.

In Bayreuth the Wagner season is virtually a one-man show, although it too is heavily subsidised. But it has to spend DM150,000 a year on letters telling applicants the tickets they want are no longer available.

Are times hard? They may well be, but it seems to vary.

Given the shortage of public funds, some thought has been given to combining artistic quality and profitability, which is so often decried as being unartistic.

Stuttgart director and theatrical manager Hansgünther Heyme plans to join forces with a local film company and stage productions that are not only quality but also sell.

He argues that what appeals to a wider public need not necessarily be in poor quality or bad taste, and he may well have a case.

Frankfurt's *Alte Oper*, reopened last autumn at great expense and in a blaze of publicity, is to house a wide range of activities, including music concerts to attract young people.

Leading industrial companies such as Hoechst in Frankfurt and Bayer in Leverkusen, near Cologne, are likewise developing arts programmes of their own rather than holding staff shows of existing productions hired for the occasion.

What about neighbouring Britain and France, which are often cited as examples of countries where the arts are free rather than subsidised?

London's Barbican Centre tells a different tale. It cost DM660m as a present from the City of London to the nation and is never expected to recoup costs. But it is a capital investment that should pay artistic dividends.

The Barbican Centre's Canadian manager hopes soon to be running at a profit by combining quality arts productions and lucrative leasing of conference facilities.

Munich has something similar in mind. It will not only include two concert halls for the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra but also cater for daytime cultural requirements.

It is planned to hold day and evening classes at the centre, which will also house the city's central library and conservatory.

Maybe they will make the project more popular. As yet it looks like being a white elephant, with costs spiralling inexorably.

First it was construction costs, which invariably increase over the years. Now the planners claim to be amazed that it will cost money to run the centre.

They claim not to have realised that the building will need heating, staff and technicians, and these costs too are steadily being revised.

Arguably more important still, noone yet knows just what range of facilities are to be provided and who is to be the commercial manager with an eye for successfully combining art and profit.

The impresario of old aimed at ensuring both. He is a more wanted man than ever.

Albrecht Roeseler

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 April 1982)

West Berlin plans exhibition to mark 1933 Nazi take-over

West Berlin spent about four years and DM15m preparing for the Prussian exhibition. The municipal authorities now plan to arrange in about seven months a programme to mark the 50th anniversary of Hitler's coming to power.

The Weimar Republic ended and the experiment in German democracy was destroyed on 30 January 1933, when Hindenburg appointed Hitler as Reich Chancellor.

The Alternative List, an environmentalist party, proposed last November a central exhibition on the subject. No party in the city council was strictly opposed to the idea.

But by March, after a number of sessions of the arts committee, it was clear that there was no longer enough time to prepare a major exhibition and that, given the shortage of funds, there was not the cash either.

So a virtue is to be made out of necessity. The Senate is to submit an overall concept by 24 May, bearing in mind projects proposed by the municipal arts council.

This body represents 30 private organisations and institutions of stage and screen, radio and TV, music, art, architecture and literature.

In mid-April it submitted to Science and Arts Senator Wilhelm Kewenig an 80-page programme of proposed events to mark the anniversary.

It was expected to cost DM2.5m in subsidies if accepted in full and was to concentrate, from January to April next year, on decentralised, local educational work, with the emphasis on history.

The proposed music programme is to feature the German Symphony, composed in exile by Hanns Eisler. Written to texts by Bertolt Brecht, it was the major work of music composed by the anti-fascist resistance.

It was premiered in 1959 but has yet to be performed in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin. It would be played by the Radio Symphony Orchestra.

The New Music Group plans a memorial concert of other works by composers the Nazis banned, while a women's music group plans to hold a concert of music composed by women during the Third Reich.

Musical productions will also feature the ideology and practice of music under the Nazis. Theater Karavane plans a multi-media show in which schoolchildren can participate.

The Neukölln Opera plans a concert programme on the politicisation of music featuring everyday Nazi music ranging from folk and popular songs to German chamber music.

But the overwhelming majority of projects put forward to the Arts Council are exhibitions and local projects.

In cooperation with the Staatliche Kunsthalle an art group is to outline the progress of dictatorship from the illegal suspension of the Prussian state government on 20 July 1932 to the abolition of free trade unions on 2 May 1933.

Documents, photos and works of art will be marshalled to show in detail how the Nazis succeeded in such a short period in gaining control of the keys to power.

They will also show the political, economic and artistic background against which this proved possible.

In at least four West Berlin boroughs there are plans for local history exhibitions of life in the Third Reich.

Other subjects on which exhibitions are planned include women in the Third Reich, youth opposition in Berlin, housing policy and the tenants' movement under fascism, industry and fascism at Siemens, the end of the (pre-Nazi) Reich Arts Association, the German film industry in 1933 and Berlin schools under the Nazis.

A number of fringe theatre groups have drawn up a programme of productions including, for instance, It Wasn't Me, It Was Adolf Hitler, by the Freie Theateranstalt.

In addition to this postscript to German history, as the group bills it, the Theatermanufaktur will be staging Brecht's *Die Rundköpfe und die Spitzköpfe* and the Zentrifuge a selection from his *Furcht und Elend des Dritten Reiches.*

Berliners of the 20s and 30s are to be given their say in a review put on by Theater in Kreuzberg, while the Zan Pollo Theater plans a comic stage version of what is a tragic historical subject.

The municipal theatres are reported to have voiced interest in programmes to mark the 50th anniversary of the Nazi take-over but regret that they were unable to stage productions of their own with so little time in which to prepare.

Professor Kewenig's department, which is responsible for the arts in general (especially the subsidised variety) and for drawing up the anniversary programme in particular, is said not to have suggested to the management of municipal theatres that they make any special preparations.

His officials are reportedly busy collating activities already proposed, such as what may by the central exhibition, on the Nazi *Bücherverbrennung*, or bonfires of banned books, to be held at the Academy of Arts.

Consideration is also being given to the events proposed throughout the year by the historical commission, but financial plans have yet to be finalised.

Angelika Stepken

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 23 April 1982)

Fillip for cultural heritage

Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum has long-term plans to preserve the cultural heritage of the former German Eastern territories.

In the latest government report on the subject he proposes concentrating work at designated museums that are to specialise in works of art from areas such as Prussia, Pomerania, Silesia and so on.

Herr Baum feels this cultural heritage must be maintained in just the same way as other parts of the national heritage deserve preservation.

Besides, the Bonn government works on the assumption that German culture is indivisible and that this cultural entity is a unifying factor in a country politically divided.

The Minister calls for a comprehensive review of work in progress, activities toward which the refugees' and expellees' organisations, with financial backing from the government, have made a major contribution for over 30 years.

In 1980 the Bonn government invested DM12.6m in activities to promote this cultural heritage, while the *Länder* contributed a further DM16.5m.

The *Länder*, Herr Baum suggests, should also set up university departments and promote academic research into the history of the former German Eastern territories.

dpa

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 27 April 1982)

■ ART

2,000 years of African art on show in Ingelheim

The International Ingelheim Days, named after the town some 60 kilometres from Frankfurt, are an annual event, organised jointly by the Boehringer drug company, the city and the Further Education Centre.

Following last year's Homage to Picasso, this year's event presents 2,000 Years of West African Art.

Sculptures, masks and photographs from 16 countries are on show. This is augmented by concerts and, naturally, Ingelheim's restaurants are making an effort to provide mildly exotic specialities.

Art galleries are showing folk art while seminars and lectures provide information background. The visitor is thus offered a glimpse at Africa.

The organisers are trying to recreate the atmosphere of Africa. A Senegalese musician, wearing traditional dress complete with fur cap and (somewhat incongruously) a quartz wristwatch, puts down his glass of mango juice and reaches for the kora — a 20 or more stringed instrument also known as a harp lute. The instrument's body is covered with goatskin but the strings that used to be made of gut are now nylon.

Items are on loan from a private Geneva museum, Barbier-Müller. They are shown behind glass and are arranged according to country.

The show provides a glance at cultures still unknown in this country like those of Nok, Benin, Yoruba, Ashanti, Dogon, Kota and Fang.

The visitor frequently finds it difficult to establish a rapport with this ambivalent and exotic world of statues, sculptures and masks.

Yet a great deal of fascination emanates from these carvings, predominantly made of wood. The difficulty lies in deciphering their deeper meaning, their message and ethnological function.

Still, one thing is obvious: abstract values and magical forces and all that is metaphysical can become palpable through the medium of art, acquiring body and face.

Divinity, power, courage, fear, love and hate are thus stripped of their mystery.

But the hub of it all is fertility, which guarantees the cycle of life: reproduction, birth and death.

The Ashanti civilisation depicts this as an upright figure with a large, circular and flat head and exaggerated breasts. Women used to wear miniatures of these figures as amulets.

But the exhibition conveys little beyond such basic facts.

The captions in the showcases restrict themselves to describing the pieces, naming the civilisations from which they originate; but they fail to mention such basic facts as the date of origin.

This could be due to the fact that art historians and ethnologists are themselves in the dark about these things.

Writes Claude Savary of the Musée Barbier-Müller: "It is necessary to stress that our knowledge is still inadequate and even though we can geographically pinpoint various types and sty-



White death mask of woman, Gabon.

(Photo: Internationale Tage Ingelheim)

les of African art we find it extremely difficult to understand their true significance — especially now when so many traditions have been either abandoned or distorted or, indeed, forgotten."

Visitors to the show would be content even with an expert's surmise or his admission of ignorance. In fact, anything would be better than no information at all.

Even so, the Ingelheim show gives an impression of the deep roots and variety of West African art.

It also shows how this art — like its modern counterpart in the Western world — concentrates on the essential elements of the body.

The exhibition is meaningfully augmented by a show of photographs that is housed in a different building and the Albert Schweitzer documentation in the *Burgkirche*.

Sabine Kinner

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 28 April 1982)

Karlsruhe features the chair

An exhibition dealing with chairs is being held in Karlsruhe.

It is a playfully assembled, unbridled show based on the evident ambition to tell everything that can be said about chairs and sitting.

The organisers, *Badischer Kunstverein*, of Karlsruhe, and *Deutscher Werkbund*, have put in an enormous amount of work into the show.

A series of captioned photographs sets the chairs in perspective. There are also various historical objects, distorted artistic versions of chairs and a leavening of matter-of-fact information.

Sometimes the organisers seem to have tried too hard and there are some items that could have been left out.

People spend most of their waking hours sitting. The significance of this could have been explained with far fewer exhibits.

Environments such as the open-air picnic give a somewhat casual impression — unlike the impressive approach to the throne, which is flanked by people sitting in lesser thrones and underscored by the reverberating sound of nearing footsteps.

One scene is outstanding: the direct confrontation of a variety of arrangements (wedding breakfast, beer drinkers' round, students and bourgeoisie at breakfast, boardroom table and hoboes) conveys a startling impression on the subject of "sitting as a ritual".

The way the furniture has been selected and arranged, the accessories, the way in which the models are dressed, their posture and the way a bit of reality has been recreated can only be called an amusingly enlightening bit of art.

But the organisers have deliberately steered clear of simply conveying a style history of chairs.

The section "Sitting as a Design Problem" shows a vast collection of chairs from different eras in the centre of a large room.

Niches in the walls contain photographs and captions relating to each of the exhibits and explaining the various types of chairs from antiquity to today.

There is also information on biotechnology, the genesis of some modern types of chairs and production methods for upholstered furniture.

Two easy chairs that have been set down the middle contrast the cheap throwaway product with the chair that has been made to last. This familiarises the visitor with quality criteria and provides a practice-oriented quickie course for the consumer.

Nearby, famous designer chairs are contrasted with a glimpse into German living rooms to show the discrepancy between designer ideals and reality.

This is a cynical and depressing device to draw attention to the designers' impotence.

The atmosphere one storey below has something fresh, cheeky and somewhat tortuous about it.

Here, artists, students and do-it-yourselfers show how the simple, utilitarian chair can be converted into a piece of art — witty, beautiful or fulsomely pregnant with meaning.

It is a thorougly stimulating and amusing exhibition.

(Handelsblatt, 16 April 1982)

Film makers v. EEC

It is almost exactly 20 years since a group of German film makers said at the Oberhausen Short Film Festival: "The old type of film is dead. We believe in the new one."

Though the 1962 "Oberhausen Manifesto" does not mark the birth of the new German film, it nevertheless marks the moment of its conception.

It look a long time following this declaration of intent for the desired child to be born.

The fact that West German films now enjoy an international reputation and that German film makers are regarded as the world's most interesting and creative is not only due to the artistic ability of individual directors (such as Fassbinder, Wenders, Herzog or Schlöndorff) but also to public sector promotion.

The present variety of promotion (Film Promotion Institute, Bonn Interior Ministry and the *Länder*) has in all likelihood also promoted the making of television films that entail no risks, and so-called committee films. But these are side products that tend to kindle criticism.

Yet there can be no doubt that the range and variety of German film production would never have been possible without this promotion. It is this very variety of the new German film that fascinates foreign viewers.

All this could change from one day to the next. In fact, the Brussels EEC Commission is out to achieve exactly this.

It insists on the Treaties of Rome being honoured, and they have but one aim: European unity and uniformity, the uniformity of now differing film promotion schemes to be achieved with purely economic considerations in mind.

The pattern that the EEC commissioners have picked as a guideline is the one practised in Britain which has led to a situation whereby there is no such thing any more as an indigenous British film.

And exactly this would happen to the German film industry if the present practice in this country, which the Commission sees as discrimination, were abolished.

This practice now provides that, in order to be promoted, a film must be German. In other words, a certain percentage of those involved in its production (director, script writer, cameraman, cutter and actors) must be either German or belong to the German cultural sphere. Similar arrangements apply to France, Italy and Denmark.

This fruitful blend of national film making in which the film is also promoted as a cultural expression of national identity, tradition and character is now to be eliminated if the Brussels harmonisers have their way.

What this amounts to is a scorched earth policy that paves the way for multinational media companies interested only in financial gain. After all, if this comes to pass they will be able to help themselves from the Community's promotional funds.

Those who could be affected by such measures have long been aware of the consequences.

The Federation of European Film Directors has repeatedly protested against the Commission's intentions — the last time at this year's Berlin Film Festival. And when a delegation of the European Parliament tried to intervene in Brussels it was accused of interfering in pending affairs.

The EEC Commissioners are determined to get their way — if necessary by resorting to the European Court.

The implication is not so much that bureaucrats are prepared to run amok but that there are interests behind the drive for whom even the lowest standard of quality in the media is too much.

While the Bonn Foreign Ministry is trying to avoid a conflict with Brussels for political reasons and would rather accept an amendment of German film making provisions (which would neither get a majority in the Bundestag nor go far enough to satisfy the Commission) the Chancellery, otherwise so interested in art, is doing nothing.

"It's five minutes to high noon," says a beseeching appeal by the German film makers.

Unless Bonn and the other European governments that have been put under pressure by Brussels take decisive steps on the highest level, the "German film miracle" will soon be a legend. And the way would be clear for a European media future in which only money talked. Culture would be left out in the cold.

Wolfram Schütte

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 April 1982)

■ EDUCATION

From bottom of the class to the top: cure for slow learners claimed

Slow learners at school should be capable of becoming top performers if their brain has no malfunction, according to a Bonn researcher.

Hermann Rüppell, scientific adviser at Bonn University's Psychology Department, is convinced he knows how to turn slow learners into top performers.

What is needed is: "A perfect process analysis of brain function and equally perfect training programme and a neuro-physiologically normal brain."

Rüppell whose research work over 10 years was subsidised by the Volkswagen Foundation and the German Scientific Research Association, based his findings on the work of various American



research institutes backed by the US Navy.

The American researchers had found that the thought patterns used in IQ tests are obsolete and that there is no such thing as a "uniform intelligence".

Instead, there are "several types of intelligence" and some 30 relevant capabilities.

For instance: people who have a high degree of one type of intelligence, such as the ability to visualise relations in space, need not necessarily have an above average intelligence in other sectors such as terminological flexibility.

Based on these findings, American and German medical doctors and psychologists have in the past few years evolved "process analyses of capabilities".

Says Rüppell: "What we do is to look into what happens with the information that is fed to the brain."

Since 1980, he says, scientists have been able to apply these findings to education because, as he puts it, most micro-activities can be learned.

Rüppell explains this with the help of a jigsaw puzzle: The scientists watch and record the eye movements of the test persons while they are assembling the puzzle. An expert in this particular intelligence sector approaches the problem systematically, matching the individual pieces his eyes fasten on with the semi-completed puzzle.

The eyes of less expert people simply dart around without any specific plan.

Rüppell uses video recordings to simulate the eye movements of experts until even the brain of the most inexpert person has absorbed the pattern and evolved a systematic search strategy.

In another test, the researchers record the time it taken a test person to recognise something after being given a complicated abstract description. For instance, a triangle within a ball suspended in a square.

The time in this test aimed at ascertaining the ability to convert abstract terms into concrete visions is measured in milliseconds.

Here, too, practice can make an average sectoral intelligence come up with top performance.

Model concepts have been envolved for each of the 30 or so sectors of intelligence and the "ideal brain processes" that go with them, the "normative thought models".

Rüppell works with animated video films and games that he himself has evolved."The actual teaching process can begin as soon as the brain has recorded the pattern. If German schools were to introduce the necessary game studios, it should be possible to impart to children the abilities they need for creative performance," says Rüppell.

Hermann Rüppell has completed his research work for the intelligence sector needed in the sciences and intends to apply it in practice.

Peter Philipps

(Die Welt, 13 April 1982)

Hit parade of universities

High school graduates want no part in Germany's new comprehensive universities.

Ruhr area universities rank at the bottom of their list of preferences, according to an opinion sampling by Münster University based on interviews with North Rhine-Westphalian high school graduates.

The survey is thought to be representative for the nation.

Professor H. Meffert concludes that the comprehensive universities that have mushroomed in North Rhine-Westphalia over the past 10 years have not succeeded in developing an image with school leavers.

Though this lack of an image in the minds of school leavers is not always in keeping with realities, it nevertheless has a major bearing on their choice of university.

The study shows that most school leavers would like to study in Bonn.

In the popularity list Bonn comes first. It is followed by Aachen and Cologne, which are seen as good.

Among the universities considered satisfactory are Münster, Munich, Düsseldorf, Berlin, Hanover and Hamburg.

Then come Wuppertal, Frankfurt, Osnabrück, Bielefeld, Essen, Paderborn, Oldenburg and Bremen.

The predominantly negative image of the Ruhr area in general has affected the grades given to universities by school leavers.

At the bottom of the list are Dortmund, Duisburg and Bochum.

It is obvious that high school graduates prefer the traditional type of university.

The ideal university should not only have good social facilities and counselling centres but should also have much to offer in the way of cultural events and general leisure activities.

At the top of desirable features is the potential for personal relationships.

The reputation of a university plays a considerably more important role than its tradition and political activities.

This also applies to the choice of university cities. Here, the most desirable aspects are ample housing, low cost of living, good transport facilities and parking plus holiday jobs. Pubs are of no particular interest in this context.

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 23 April 1982)

Lecture halls packed to rafters

One million young people are crowding Germany's universities — and the effect of the heavy birthrate years is still to come.

Yet the career prospects of university students are out of all proportion to the rush for degrees, as evidenced by the many thousands of jobless teachers.

The "market economy steering mechanisms" that Otto Esser, president of the Employers' Association, would like to see applied point in the wrong direction.

His idea of raising university fees which now bear no relation to the actual cost of education — even if these fees have to be financed through loans — would exceed the financial possibilities of many students.

Enormous numbers of students already have to fall back on borrowed money to get through university.

The point is that it is inevitably the students from low-income families who find themselves burdened with debt.

Instead of restricting equal opportunities still further, we should tackle a fundamental reform of university studies: shorter and more practice-oriented curriculums for most university students would be both more effective and fairer.

Bettina Wieselmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 22 April 1982)

Typesetter goes to sea for his educational holiday

A Hanover (Lower Saxony) court has ruled in favour of a typesetter who made use of his right to a further education holiday on full pay to learn how to sail.

In five German states, employees are entitled to a two-week educational holiday on full pay every other year.

In Hesse, Berlin, Bremen and Hamburg the courses taken must serve to promote the participant's vocational or political education, while Lower Saxony also includes general further education.

For example:

- Lower Saxony workers were offered a course (28 March to 16 April) teaching landscape and architectural painting in the Provence (France).
- A five-day seminar in the Harz Mountains deals with "What Women Dream — On Erotic Literature".
- A course on the painting of ikons is offered on the North Sea Island of Norderney.
- "An Introduction to Pantomime" was available on another North Sea island, Neuwerk.
- One Hanover course was entitled Cooking and Arranging a Gala Dinner.
- Yoga and autogenous training courses are available in Meinsen, Meinersen and Clausthal-Zellerfeld in the Harz Mountains.
- Spinning and dyeing could also be learned in Clausthal-Zellerfeld.
- "An Introduction to Batik Techniques" in Cuxhaven.
- A one-week super-8 film-making seminar in Bederkesa.
- A five-day course on "Meaningful Everyday Life" in Elligerode.
- The German Boy Scouts offered a five-day course entitled "A Week of Disco Plus Theatre" in Höchst.
- "Soccer is Our Life" was the title of a course offered by the *Hessische Sportjugend*.
- The German Trade Union Federation in conjunction with the Adult Education Organisation offers a course (18-22 October) at the Baltic resort of Grömitz entitled "Children and Sexuality".
- In May, Hamburg workers will be able to explore the "Problems of a Peripheral Region in Europe" in Millau, Southern France.
- Hamburg workers also have an opportunity to spend one-week educational holidays in either Moscow, Kiev, Leningrad, Hungary or Bulgaria. The topic of these course is "Working Conditions of Soviet, Hungarian and Bulgarian Workers".

The question that comes to mind is: What about *their* educational holidays?

(Welt am Sonntag, 25 April 1982)

Call for return of Latin

Latin and Greek should be re-introduced at German secondary schools.

Students should not start from scratch at university, says the German Association of Classical Philologists (DAV).

At the end of a DAV congress in Mainz, the Association called on the educational authorities to re-introduce major and minor *Latinum* and *Graecum* proficiency certificates.

The schools would have to establish some 500 additional classes for this purpose, says an Association spokesman.

The DAV also called for improved university training for teachers of Latin and Greek and suggested that the schools should use unconventional teaching methods to reduce the "modernity gap".

dpa

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 19 April 1982)

Big demand for the tiny tots

A Berlin primary school is unsuccessfully trying to recruit pupils for its beginners classes.

The Kurt Held School, in the Kreuzberg district, is trying to find German pupils because there are so few.

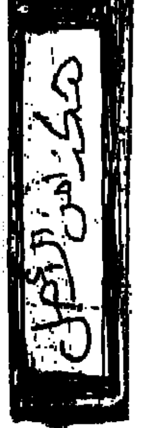
So far there have been enrolment applications for 78 foreign children and 10 German.

Because of teaching difficulties which might arise over language all the German children will have to be transferred.

This would mean that for the first time, all first-year pupils at a German school will be foreign.

Günter Werz

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 17 April 1982)



■ RESEARCH

Hoechst bankrolls American genetic research lab

The German drug company Hoechst is over the next 10 years to finance a biotechnology research institute at the Massachusetts General Hospital. The cost will be between $50m and $60m. On top of this, Hoechst will also pay for equipment. Much of the research will be in genetic engineering. Here Adelbert Reif, of Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, interviews the director of the hospital (MGH), Dr Charles Sanders.

REIF: The total amount is one of the largest contributions to a research institute ever made by an industrial company. Would it be right to speak of a sensation?

SANDERS: The extent of the financial support is certainly extraordinary. But several factors should be taken into account.

For one thing, it is always a costly business to establish a new laboratory — especially a laboratory that deals with genetic basic research and therefore requires highly sophisticated technological apparatus.

Of all the imaginable technologies, there is none that is costlier regarding equipment, maintenance and the scientific qualifications of the staff than the technology used in obtaining and processing DNA genetic material.

This is partly due to the enormously expensive isolation technology needed to ensure that none of the genetically manipulated living organisms can reach the outside world. But it is also due to the fact that we will develop into an important project due to the number of top scientists on our staff.

We have already managed to enlist five or six researchers whose work has earned them a world-wide reputation. I hardly have to stress that the financing of their work will be enormously expensive.

The money provided by Hoechst will amount to about one-sixth or one-seventh of the total research budget. In other words: The already earmarked budget of US$35m will be boosted by another US$5m a year for the next ten years. So the total cost of the research is compatible with the amount to be provided by Hoechst.

REIF: But no company is going to pay that kind of money without pursuing concrete objectives. What are the *particular research objectives in this case?*

SANDERS: What Hoechst wants to achieve with this deal is to make use of up-to-date genetic research.

Naturally, Hoechst could very well establish its own DNA laboratory in Frankfurt and manage it well in scientific terms.

But the problem lies in the fact that we are dealing with a field of research marked by extremely rapid development.

I can say without exaggerating that our knowledge in this field literally changes from month to month. The entire field of genetics is undergoing a permanent process of development and revolution.

The result is that most truly qualified researchers don't want to become involved in commercial affairs. Here in Boston the researchers are faced with a classical university environment. Apart from the MGH, there is the Harvard Medical School, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University.

There are groups of scientists at all these institutions who are working in the field of genetics and who although they belong to different institutions — are essentially united as a result of their common field.

Though the scientists reveal no commercial secrets when engaging in a scientific discussion, they provide each other with information they can use in their own work.

This is the traditional principle of exchanging ideas in basic research.

REIF: What does the whole thing mean for Hoechst in practical terms?

SANDERS: Hoechst will have a laboratory smack in the middle of these institutions, complete with the elite of scientists that goes with it. It will gain access to modern DNA research by sending four German scientists a year to Boston where they will work at the MGH.

Four might not seem many to you; but you must bear in mind that there are hardly more than 20 top grade genetic researchers in the whole world. By the end of the decade, there will be 40 fully trained senior researchers.

So what Hoechst will be getting from us is primarily know-how. This will be bolstered by certain germ and seed blueprints which can then be developed at the Frankfurt laboratories and put to commercial use.

But I would like to emphasise that this is only the beginning of a long-term commercial development in which our laboratory will play a major role.

REIF: What arrangement has your institution made with Hoechst, the financier, regarding the commercial use of the research results? Can Hoechst lay claim to the financial exploitation of all results or only the results in certain partial sectors? And what is the position regarding the commercial application? Will Hoechst later have to pay royalties on the earnings thus generated?

SANDERS: The MBH will patent all discoveries that can be patented. Hoechst will have the exclusive rights to all discoveries wholly financed by German money.

In other words, the Hoechst company will be entitled to make world-wide use of an exclusive licence for the whole duration of a patent.

But Hoechst will have no exclusive licence for discoveries only partly financed by German money. As a matter of principle, any licence used by Hoechst will be subject to royalties to be paid to the MGH.

The royalties will be calculated proportionate to the amount of money provided by the MGH itself and proportionate to the number of German and American scientists involved in the discovery.

REIF: What guarantees to safeguard the traditional academic freedoms of the MGH and its researchers does the contract contain?

SANDERS: First of all, the head of our institute, Howard Goodman, who has hitherto worked for the California University Medical School, is entirely free to draft the course of his research.

Hoechst lays no claim to dictating or influencing this as long as the research work remains within the field of genetics.

In addition, Dr Goodman is free to publish discoveries after a sensible length of time wherever he wants to.

As I mentioned earlier, the MGH will be the holder of the patents. Should Hoechst refuse to support a particular research programme, Dr Goodman will be at liberty to look for another financier.

Naturally, Dr Goodman will be free to choose his team of researchers although we normally have to be very cautious when it comes to working with scientists who represent commercial interests.

Generally speaking, I'd say that Dr Goodman's role at our institute is like that of any other researcher except that his work is backed by Hoechst and not by the federal government in Washington.

REIF: Even so, doesn't this mean that basic research thus becomes directly dependent on certain industrial providers of capital and their commercial aims?

SANDERS: In my view, the best way of engaging in modern research for the good of humanity as a whole is to tie it to a commercial enterprise. Our research work here in the United States depended too long on financial support by the federal government. And to make matters worse, Washington's sponsorship has been rather ill defined.

Though Washington has meanwhile issued more exact guidelines, this hasn't made things easier for us. According to the new guidelines, non-profit institutions such as the MGH which receive financial backing from the federal government may not patent products that have been developed with the help of this backing.

The government's objective is to prevent its money being used to enable certain commercial companies to gain production advantages through exclusive licences.

Still, it would be nonsense to believe that this can prevent the commercial exploitation of basic research findings.

The way I see it, there can be no doubt that we are now in a transition phase marked by a growing commercialisation of basic research. But since all our research work ultimately serves the diagnostic or therapeutic benefits of all, I don't regard that as a problem.

REIF: Do you think that major research projects outside the arms sector can only be financed by private industry?

SANDERS: Yes; there can be no doubt about it. Only private enterprise can afford to finance such cost-intensive research projects as those in the fields of genetic engineering and molecular biology. To expect the government to do this would be foolish.

Washington, for instance, would never back us for a ten-year period. The financial assistance of the federal government extends over three to five years at the most for a specific research project.

It would be an insupportable risk for an institute to develop all sorts of costly technical and scientific work only to be confronted with a discontinuation of federal support after five years. Only private business initiative can guarantee the continuity of basic research in terms of time and money.

Adelbert Reif

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 23 April 1982)

Next step 'the pregnancy outside womb'

Pregnancies outside the mother's womb are possible, says Professor Karl-Günther Ober.

This could happen during the lifetime of the younger generation, he told a meeting organised by the Catholic Academy in Bavaria.

Professor Ober was the doctor in charge of Germany's first test-tube baby which was last month born at Erlangen University Hospital.

Test-tube babies are conceived outside the womb but the embryo is then placed in the womb.

Professor Ober spoke on the moral implications of artificial insemination.

He rejected the moral reservations raised by the Catholic Church about test-tube insemination.

Despite the objections, the discussion to some extent reconciled the standpoints of theologians and doctors.

The theologians restricted their "qualified approval" to precisely outlined conditions and opposed any kind of abusive experiments with human life.

rtr

(Die Welt, 26 April 1982)

A recipe for a longer life

Lübecker Nachrichten

Old people can add years to their life by not overeating, Professors Ernst Lang (Erlangen) and Hans-Joachim Holtmeier (Stuttgart) told the Karlsruhe Gerontology Congress.

The two researchers suggested that at the age of 55 at the latest older people should reduce their sugar intake and eat less fat (0.8 grammes a day per kilo of body weight).

Older people should:

- Get most of their proteins from vegetables
- Take enough vitamins
- Drink 1.5 litres of liquid a day, mainly tea and mineral water

Many older people ate and drank just as much when they retired as they did when they worked. They should eat less to compensate for the reduced exertion.

A 16-year-old could well need 5,000 calories a day, but a woman of 65 doing only light work needs no more than 1,500.

The elderly should not only reduce calories but also switch to better food to ensure that they get nutrients such as minerals, vitamins and trace elements. Thorough chewing is also important.

dpa

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 22 April 1982)

LEISURE

Wanderlust among the old means big business in foreign travel

Senior citizens are big business in the travel trade, so there is no point in insulting the over-60s by calling them old folk.

About five million of them a year go on holiday, nearly 200,000 opting for holiday destinations beyond Europe. Small wonder the trade is keen to keep them happy.

Brochures invariably picture young ladies and sylph-like girls wearing bikinis. But long-term market surveys show that the travelling done by senior citizens has for years been a mainstay of the trade.

The over-60s make up 18 per cent of the population. In 1980 fifty-four per cent of them went on holiday.

In the early and late summer seasons they are particularly important bookers of tours and accommodation, and most resorts will agree that they are good spenders.

A number of tourist boards, Schleswig-Holstein for instance, issue brochures specially designed to appeal and cater for the senior citizen end of the market.

The aim is to ensure that no-one feels lonely or neglected. In some resorts visitors are entertained, if that is the right word, by the local clergy — and it works.

But it would be wrong to look on senior citizens as basket cases needing care and attention. Only 38 per cent of holidaymakers in their 60s holiday in Germany; the others go gallivanting abroad and overseas.

Even among the over-70s only 55 per cent take their holidays in Germany. Those that stay in Germany prefer Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and Schleswig-Holstein.

Market research has revealed various reasons why older holidaymakers opt for their own country. Some, especially the better-off, deliberately choose expensive holidays in Germany.

Others stay in Germany because they are not too well-off and prefer not to risk a holiday that might run them into unexpected expenditure and debt.

Besides, they are worried they might be unable to cope, not being fluent in foreign languages, and feel uneasy at the prospect of having to adapt to an alien environment.

Among foreign countries visited, the GDR is particularly important, but here the statistics are inflated by visits to relatives, which can hardly be said to come in the tourist category.

The Scandinavian countries are also popular. One German tourist in four who visit Scandinavia is over 60. But Switzerland, a country of which one might expect the elderly to be fond, fares badly.

Even neighbouring Austria, which is in no way alarmingly different and has always been a fairly inexpensive holiday destination, is under-represented among elderly holidaymakers.

Senior citizens make up a surprisingly large percentage of long-distance overseas travellers. In 1980 150,000 over-60s and 60,000 over-70s went on an overseas holiday.

Why? Probably because old people feel it is something they can at long last afford. Many save for some time to be able to do so.

Why not travel abroad? If you're worried you can always think of a reason. You may be afraid of being mugged or falling ill, or of the food being bad.

These are worries younger people share, but they are said not to trouble the over-70s. If they are still in health and in pocket there is no stopping them.

Art and education are not what they want from a holiday, or not primarily. First comes communication, then maybe peace and quiet, and an opportunity to recharge the batteries, as it were.

Recharging the batteries is a particularly important motive for the over-60s. The last fling, the travel trade disrespectfully calls it, but accurately no doubt.

The over-70s are keener on peace and quiet and not too wildly enthusiastic to get to know fresh faces and places. Maybe they are less impressed by the hue and cry.

It is interesting to learn that most old people book their holidays and buy their tickets at the railway ticket window. They seem to have most confidence in railway officials.

They even ask for travel information at the railway station or the nearest tourist board office. They certainly seem keen on information from what would appear to be an authoritative source.

Once they are on holiday they are happy to spend their money and generally spend more than younger holidaymakers.

Statistically speaking, the over-60s spend DM1,000 per holiday, whereas their youngers average only DM950.

They also take longer holidays, which is not unduly surprising. The ones that travel have the cash, the trade wryly puts it.

The travel trade and holiday resorts naturally cater for old people because they have money to spend. Impressive facilities have been built, especially in German resorts, to cater for the senior citizen.

But what old people like doing most costs next to nothing. It is going for walks and chatting with other people. They also go to concerts and lectures.

Going to church is another popular activity, which may or may not surprise you. More than one million older holidaymakers attend divine service while on holiday.

In the evening over half the senior citizens on holiday most enjoy going out to a bar or restaurant, which will come as cheering news to the catering trade.

And when it's time to go home, most are touchingly happy with what they have been given for their money. No other age group is so charitable in its judgment on the travel trade as the over-60s.

More and more holidays — Average annual no. of days' holiday with pay.

1963: 19 Workdays; 1972: 23; 1981: 28

Holidays money from employer . . . 1963: 3%; 1972: 74%; 1981: 93%

. . . now almost whole workforce gets it.

Maybe they are simply grateful. Maybe it is a gift of age to be able to take it all in your stride. Whatever the reason, senior citizens are model holidaymakers.

That is why tour organisers, hotels and resorts would be well advised not to segregate older holidaymakers from the rest. There are spots on the tourist map that have a reputation for serving the aged.

Everyone would probably do best to look on holidaymakers over 60 as just part of the trade and no different from anyone else.

Hans Bensmann

(Rheinische Post, 17 April 1982)

Saturday's poor man dreams of Monday's rich man

For Germans who like a flutter the Saturday evening Lotto, or TV lottery, has been joined by a Wednesday draw with a chance of winning DM1.5m for a stake of 50 pfennigs.

About one German in three wagers a few marks a week, and viewing figures are at their peak on Saturday evenings when the announcer, Karin Tietze-Ludwig, appears on the screen.

All have visions of watching her announce the results, comparing them with the numbers on their Lotto slips and jumping for joy as they realise they are millionaires.

Many have been doing it for over 25 years, and almost everyone has no choice but to turn up for work again on Monday and postpone dreams of wealth for another week.

It is goodbye to a house of one's own, to a new Porsche, a round-the-world tour and a bank account bursting at the seams.

The Saturday draw does not pay out the full amount as often as most people imagine. In the first six months of last year the full DM1.5m went to a single winner only 11 times.

From July 1981 the stake and the winnings were doubled, so the maximum payout was a handsome DM3m, but in 26 weeks only 13 people won it.

Lotto turnover totalled over DM4.6bn in 1981, with minor lotteries based on soccer and racing results bringing the total to nearly DM5.8bn.

Tens of thousands of newsagents and tobacconists all over the country earn money as Lotto agents, not to mention the people who work at head offices in the 11 *Länder* counting slips and checking entries.

Lotto punters are occasionally made out to be the poor, the assumption being that the rich have better things to do with their money.

Market research by Allensbach, the leading German opinion pollsters, has disproved this fond belief.

Punters are an exact cross-section of the population. They include professional men, salaried and wage-earning workers, housewives and people on the dole.

Why do they wager? To win a packet, that's why. But what they plan to do with the money has changed over the past decade. Rising living standards are the reason.

Buying a dream house is still high on the list, but opening a savings account, buying stocks and shares and taking out life insurance are less attractive than they used to be.

Nearly one would-be Lotto millionaire in two would go for that dream journey round the world. So travel is still a major incentive.

Other forms of betting cannot compare with the DM73bn that Lotto has grossed since the scheme was launched over 25 years ago.

But the tote at horse races, one-armed bandits and the two traditional sweepstake lotteries run in Hamburg and Munich also take in good money.

Gambling casinos are an interesting newcomer. New casinos have given roulette, black jack and baccarat a real boost over the past few years.

In 1965 there were 13 casinos in the Federal Republic of Germany; now there are 27, and they cater for a wider gambling public.

Their turnover has increased from a handy DM148.8m in 1965 to a round DM500m and more.

Gone are the days when casinos were the haunt of the nobility, of rich ne'er-do-wells and of people of what used to be known as of independent means.

Gone are the days when people dressed in elegant evening wear thronged the casinos of Baden-Baden, Wiesbaden and the like. The common man has taken over.

The average casino punter, Allensbach pollsters say, is between 30 and 55 years old, will usually be a man, well-educated and probably salaried or self-employed.

But he will need to overcome theshold fear of casinos before he is classified by pollsters as one of the seven per cent of adult Germans who are experienced casino-goers.

Only six per cent of people who visit a casino for the first time say they came on their own.

Gambling is always a winner. When times are bad, lottery ticket-sellers and casino managers need have no fear of a slump, says Dr Rüdiger Kroll of the Hamburg state lottery.

"Hard times, when the economic and political outlook is hazy, intensify the desire to make a mint of money and end financial difficulties in one fell swoop," he reckons.

"Business is usually better when times are hard than when everyone is feeling fine. So the outlook seems good for an industry that earns a living from people's dreams of earning a fortune overnight."

Lutz E. Dreesbach

(Handelsblatt, 20 April 1982)